



Story on page 9

Graduation

See a complete list of students walking the stage during Fall graduation ceremonies.

Complete List on Pages 15 & 16

The Apache Pow Wow

SINCE 1927

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WEB extras

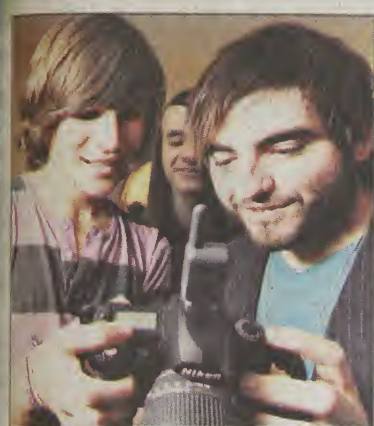


Photo by Nicholas R. Von Staden/MCT

ECONOMY AFFECTS COURSES

Joe Perri wanted to pursue a degree in photography from an arts school. He and his family saved, hunted for scholarships and applied for financial aid, but they eventually realized they simply couldn't find enough help to offset the \$40,000-a-year cost for his first choice schools. About one out of six students have put their search for a college on hold because of the unstable economy. To read the entire story visit tjcnewspaper.com.



Photo by Ted Richardson/MCT

MAN PUBLICIZES DNA RECORDS

Here's some personal information about Misha Angrist: His blood pressure is 104 over 65. He weighs 173 pounds, has fought anxiety and depression and is very allergic to cats. And those are some of the mild details Angrist, a Duke geneticist, has made public. Angrist is one of 10 participants in a new, well-publicized Harvard Medical School study that its proponents say will significantly change the way genetic research is conducted.

WEB
extras
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Law passes to protect sick students

By Kamren Thompson
Managing Editor

As she works frantically on her graphic design project, sophomore Kyndall Lowe realizes she has to stop what she is doing to rush to her next doctor visit. She quickly saves the partially finished homework, grabs her keys and runs out the door to attend her

second monthly appointment.

"I have cystic fibrosis," Lowe said. "It's not easy, but it's just another day. Living with CF has always been hard, so going to school, work, etc. is just life."

Thousands of college students are diagnosed with serious medical conditions every year and must learn to balance their everyday lives with painful and time-

consuming treatments. However, before Michelle's Law was passed in October, some students were forced to balance their everyday lives, medical treatment and their status as full-time students.

Michelle's Law, which was signed into law by President Bush on Oct. 9, 2008, states that students who are covered under their parent's insurance by being a

full-time student, can take a leave of absence after being diagnosed medically ill and their insurance company will not be able to drop their coverage.

"Current law allows full-time, dependent college students to be covered by their parents' health insurance plan up to age 22," said

— see LAW page 4 —



Faculty member completes tour in Iraq

By Matt Sneed
Staff Writer



Photos courtesy of Charles Smith

SERVING THE COUNTRY Top, Intercollegiate Athletics Assistant Director Charles Smith snaps a photo during a sand storm while serving in Iraq. Bottom, Smith poses at an Oasis at Al Asad Air Base in Iraq.

After the first week, you get used to the bullet sounds, machine guns, the booms, and the 'kink, kink, kink,' said Charles Smith, assistant athletic director at Tyler Junior College.

A wide-eyed 19-year-old kid from Troup, Smith enlisted in the Air Force Reserves on July 3, 2001, between his freshman and sophomore years at Texas A&M University.

"I had thought a little about it before [joining the military]. I thought I could get through school with the benefits [the military offers] before anything happens."

Nearly two months later, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center.

In the spring of 2002, Smith did not return to A&M. He instead spent his semester in basic training and tech school for the military. It wasn't until that summer that he was able to return to A&M where he attended classes until the fall of 2005.

Close to finishing school, Smith needed to do an internship and knew he wanted to come back to

— see SOLDIER page 4 —

Cyclists in danger on Texas roads

By Aaron Boone
Staff Writer

Christopher Thomas O'Leary was sitting on his motorcycle at the intersection of Spur 364 and Loop 323 on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The light changed, giving O'Leary a protected green arrow to turn. He never made it out of the intersection.

Chris was hit by a vehicle running a red light and was taken immediately to East Texas Medical Center where he was treated for massive head trauma. Despite the doctors' best efforts, 20-year-old Christopher Thomas "Sweet Jones" O'Leary passed away the next day due to his injuries.

O'Leary was wearing his helmet, was not speeding, was not shrugging off any traffic laws, and was not showing off the skills he had mastered while putting thousands of miles on his motorcycle. He didn't make any mistakes on his bike that Saturday afternoon, yet he was killed.

In 2001, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration did a full report on fatal single vehicle motorcycle crashes to present their statistics to the public and to provide some insight into the possible causes of these wrecks.

What they found was that between 1975 and 1999, 38,000 motorcyclists died in single vehicle

— see CYCLISTS page 4 —

Financial aid scams make their way to TJC

By Valencia Golden
Copy Editor

Students and parents should beware of organizations that are financial aid scams, promising help in a tight economy.

Letters from the College Financial Advisory, located in San Diego, Calif. have been circulating among Tyler Junior College students.

The letter is address to the student and their parents. It asks them to fill out and submit an enclosed student profile, which asks for a student profile number that is in the format of a Social Security number. The letter also requests that the student send a \$48 processing fee.

"I received the letter, but decided to disregard it," freshman Savannah Wendell said.

It seemed strange that they asked for a \$48 processing fee while promising free financial aid."

The CFA targets middle-income families, who are not wealthy enough to cover the cost of college on their own, but do not have incomes low enough to qualify for need-based aid.

"People who cannot receive financial aid from the government or were not awarded enough aid might be tricked into the scam because they are so desperate to pay for college," Wendell said.

Students should avoid offers from organizations that say they can help locate more aid and then will charge

— see SCAMS page 4 —

East Texans donate during holidays despite economy

By Daisy Valle
Staff Writer

Cold crisp air fills the room as the door swings open to the hall. A young boy runs to the living room, wiping sleep from his eyes only to round the corner and find his Christmas tree bare.

Firefighter Association Toy Drive

This is the 27th year that the Tyler Firefighters Association and the Tyler Fire Department have teamed up to prevent this type of event through a toy drive for Smith County Residents.

They accept new, unwrapped toys to give to the families in need. If the toy is battery-powered, they are asking that the batteries be provided.

With all the abrupt economic changes, Christmas spending is predicted to be low. Nonetheless, this year the need is just as great if not greater.

"This year particularly the economy is not that great so we were thinking that we may not have such a good year this year. But every year we thought that, it's

even gotten better," said Jeff Akin, fire captain.

Akin also said that he is certain that the toy drive will be successful, effective, and will aid every Smith County resident in need this Christmas.

Any of the Tyler fire stations are open as toy drop off points until Dec. 15.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

The Salvation Army bell ringers are as much part of the holidays as shopping and spending time with family.

They are ever present outside Tyler's grocery stores and shopping malls this time of year.

"The Salvation Army is quite effective--not only here in Tyler, but throughout the world," said Debbie Kirkland, public relations director for Salvation Army Tyler office. "The Army has rehabilitated people's lives. I'm sure that that has to do with the fact that The Salvation Army is a Christian church based on this theory: 'Heart to God, Hand to Man.'"

— see DONATE page 8 —

[Opinion]

State tuition needs overhaul

National Group Gives Texas Schools an "F" in Affordability

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education has released its latest report card for state colleges and universities and it does not paint a good picture for those schools, including ones here in Texas.



from TJC to another school or a four-year school where the tuition can increase five times.

State lawmakers need to take a close look at this report and see that students are suffering and less aid is being offered to those who really need it. During their January session state legislators need to come together and bail out the future generation instead of bailing out companies that dug their own graves.

Schools were graded on its progress and performance in five key areas, including preparation, participation, affordability, completion, and benefits.

One black eye for the state and the nation is the alarming rise in tuition and the amount of money people have to pay out-of-pocket, even with financial aid, to attend school.

The highest grade Texas received was a "B" in preparation for college. The report found the state performed "fairly well" and has improved in preparing high school students for college. The state's second highest grade was a "C+" in benefits due to the fact the number of people getting a Bachelor's degree has increased steadily since 1990. The state still falls behind the national and top five performing states.

All states received an "F" on the report except for California, which received a "C," but even in that state, school is becoming less affordable.

The report found in Texas poor and working-class families have to devote 30 percent of their income to pay for two-year colleges, like TJC. It also said Texas received the grade because is a low amount of financial aid to those with a low-income. It stated, "For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends only 32 cents."

Our board of trustees needs to be thanked for their decisions this year. When faced with a tight budget and the economic crisis, they went with a tuition increase of only a few dollars per hour.

However, students face a big problem when they move



Sorry kids, Santa can't afford presents with an economy like this.

America needs Christmas bailout in struggling economy

Editorial by The Chicago Tribune
Distributed by MCT

Every Who down in Whoville likes Christmas a lot, but the budgets to pay for the trappings are shot. And, no, we're not going to write this entire piece in verse; we don't have the in-house talent to sustain it and our freelance budget is hurting, but that's precisely our point. Who can afford the holidays this year?

Retailers are bracing for a disappointing shopping season. Americans who are worried about losing their jobs, their homes and their life savings aren't in the mood to line up for Nintendos. Employers have canceled Christmas parties and holiday bonuses. Shopping malls aren't hiring seasonal workers, and local governments are cutting funds for their holiday displays or threatening to. No, Virginia, there is not a Santa Claus. Maybe next year.

Across the country, cash-strapped towns will make do with fewer lights and shorter parades, The Wall Street Journal reports. The Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas, a trade group, is holding meetings to discuss economic survival strategies. Lavish open-bar office parties are out; potlucks in the break room are in. American Express, Hearst Corp. and Morgan Stanley all have canceled their holiday staff celebrations, according to the Wall Street gossip site Dealbreaker.com. Don't miss the bitter grousing in the site's anonymous comment section.

Here in Chicago, a City Hall budget crunch was eased by \$10 million by giving employees three extra days off during the holidays — without pay. You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch.

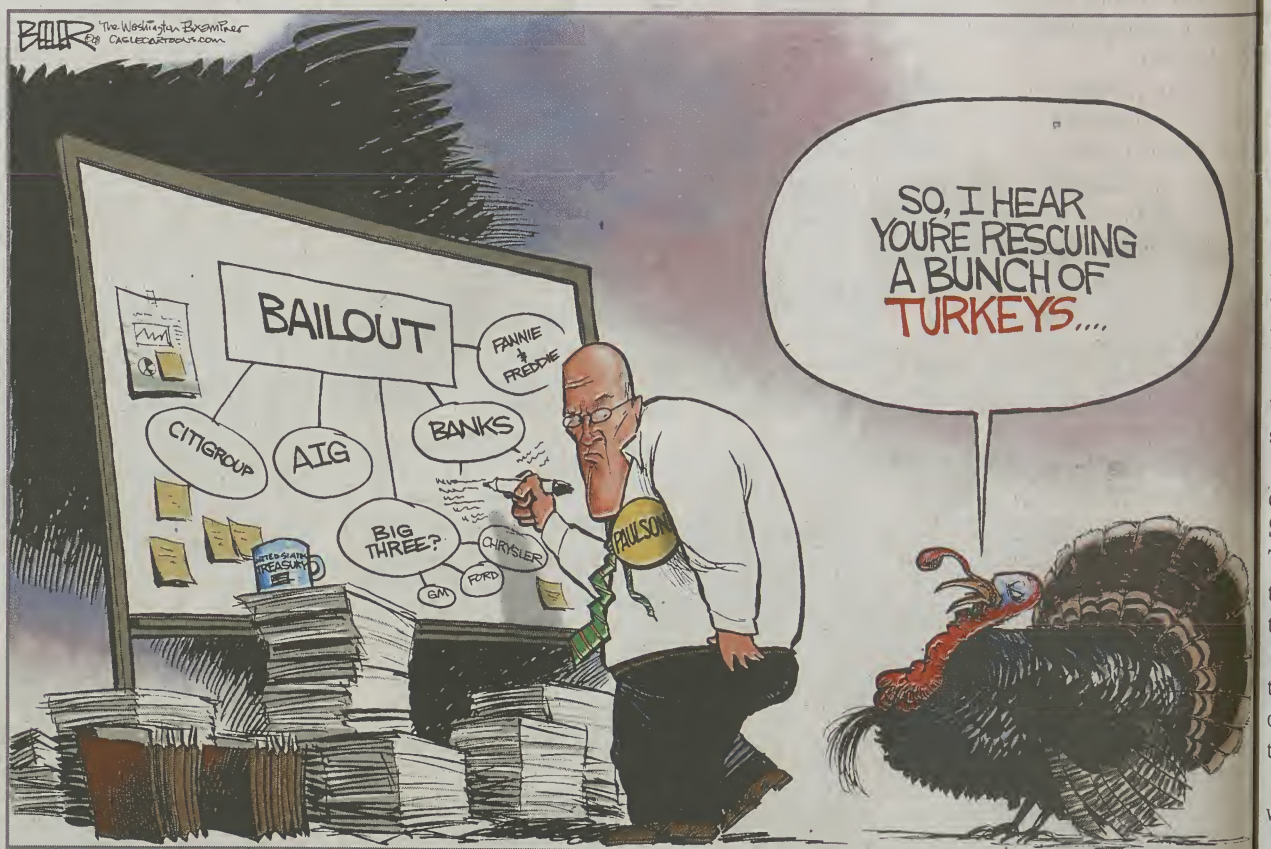
Whose idea was it to schedule the holidays in the fourth quarter? That short-sighted plan virtually guarantees that seasonal good cheer will be axed whenever we need it most. Right now, for example.

To riff on Dr. Seuss a little more: We have an idea. An awful idea! This page has a wonderful, awful idea!

You guessed it — a bailout. Why didn't we think of it sooner? Taxpayers have already committed nearly a trillion dollars to saving mortgage monsters Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, insurance giant AIG and the entire banking industry. What's a few billion more for tinsel and lights? As long as Congress is working on a plan to save Detroit automakers from themselves, why not underwrite a few thousand office parties while we're at it?

How about a modest economic stimulus package say, a \$25 card for every American?

Yes, we know that in the end, the Grinch could not stop Christmas from coming. But our economic crisis is much bigger than one cave-dwelling green meanie and his dog-drawn sleigh. We need help, and we know just the man for the job: Herman Paulson. If this works out, he can carve the roast beast.



Editors Note: Campus Viewpoint is a new section to the Opinion page of The Apache Pow Wow. It will feature guest editorials from various public officials offering their view on any topic.

Thinking Green and Clean

Just as computers have quickly and quietly invaded everything we do, I believe that the next big thing to impact our lives will be how we deal with too many people and too little planet. Even though we live in an area that feels removed from many of the world's problems, all of us are connected. Thinking we are immune to what happens elsewhere is like being in the "non-smoking" section of an open restaurant in a booth right next to the "smoking" section and believing it is safer there.

Even though change will come quickly, it will not be readily apparent. Many jobs have gone away while new ones were being created and most of us didn't even notice. As a kid, I earned a few dollars pumping gas but (except for the state of Oregon) it is a self-service world now. Elevators used to require an operator but that career is long gone too. Not very long ago, we started new programs at South Texas College for travel and tourism and e-commerce. Both quickly became irrelevant. People book their own travel on line, so the need for travel agents diminished

overnight. Ten years ago, e-commerce seemed to be the wave of the future but instead of being a stand alone career, all business and commerce has adapted to the internet in order to survive.

The signs of change coming are evident. Our planet has never been so populated with one species so able to impact, change and dominate the natural order. An economist once described human beings as creatures with unlimited wants. There are billions of people desiring a lifestyle similar to ours and as more are able to afford it, our planet cannot sustain itself without significant changes.

Change also creates opportunities. People with expertise in sustainability, renewable resources, and clean energy will have valuable skills, while people who do not will become less employable. Architects will need to know how to design ultra-efficient buildings that minimize energy consumption. Auto technicians that do not understand hybrid and alternative fuel technologies will become unemployable. Building system engineers will need

to know about programmable logic systems that save and squeeze energy consumption. Urban planners will design compact and efficient living units. Every career field and all aspects of our lives will be affected by the need to consume less energy and pollute less while still being able to maintain a high quality of life. President-elect Obama is proposing huge investments in clean energy as one of the ways to stimulate the economy while investing in the future.

At TJC, you will see us begin to engage in cleaner and greener practices. We will work toward becoming herbicide and pesticide free. Our vehicles will become more fuel efficient as we trade in older ones. We will conserve, recycle, and reduce our impact on the environment. In our classes and programs, we will adapt to incorporate sustainable practices and new technologies. Winston Churchill once said "Take change by the hand before it grabs you by the throat." We will embrace change at TJC and do our best to help you prepare for a bright future.

Campus Viewpoint



Dr. Mike Metke, TJC President

The Apache Pow Wow
Friday, December 5, 2008

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CAMPUS SAFETY POLICE REPORTS
online at tjcnewspaper.com

Police academy takes only the most determined candidates

By Ashley Summers
Staff Writer

Even though it was 38 degrees outside, Tyler Junior College Police Academy cadets still had sweat dripping off their faces while running sprints.

The academy began this year on Nov. 3 with 16 cadets, but only 13 remain.

Thomas Johnson, was named Department Chair/Director of Public Safety in September, is a

strong believer in the physical training part of the academy.

"Before the academy begins, these people must be able to run one and a

half miles, and be able to do proper push ups and sit ups," Johnson said.

No time limit or amount is required, but the physical demands become progressively more difficult.

"It gave us a starting point, and even though it gets tougher throughout the course, it's feeling more comfortable," David Patterson, a current cadet, said.

At the end of the 18 weeks of academy, cadets must be able to run six miles.

TJC's police academy works with the Tyler Police Department and the Smith County Sheriff's Department.

Cadets have their physical training at each department, and train with current officers in the special training, such as what to do in real-life events.

"The physical training builds char-

acter," cadet Jason Smith said. "It pushes us to another limit that we would have never otherwise done."

Out of the 13 cadets, two are female.

"There is no special treatment for females. We are all equal," Toska Graham, one of the female cadets in training, said.

Five out of the 13 cadets are military veterans. Most of which have always dreamed of being a police officer.

"I've wanted to be one since the eighth grade," Cadet Justin Stockwell, a Veteran Marine said. "Now it's just a lifestyle change."

— Jason Smith
Police Academy Cadet

"We are serving on the civilian side now," Andrew Mackey said.

Not only does Johnson believe that the physical ability of the cadets is important, but he also stresses the academic portion as well.

The state of Texas has ranked TJC as one of the top academies in the state for the academic portion.

A total of 13 tests are given throughout the 18 weeks to help cadets prepare for the state test at the end of the academy.

So far, Johnson's cadets have had a 100 percent pass rate on the test.

"We train the cadets very hard, and work on etiquette," Johnson said.

When training begins, he gives three pieces of advice to his cadets. "Look sharp, act sharp, be sharp." The cadets learn to live by that.



SELF-DEFENSE TECHNIQUES (Top Right) Charles Boyce holds the practice bag while Crystal Brown delivers a blow. This drill is a new technique that the academy has just integrated into its program recently.

GETTING IN SHAPE (Bottom Right) Two cadets run around the Tyler police department building in a race to build character and to get in shape.

Photo by Ashley Summers

Students represent 30 percent of Plasma donations

By Sidni Kirby
Staff Writer

Even with the economy in shambles, there is a place in Tyler and many other college towns practically passing out money, in exchange for life saving materials that healthy bodies make daily.

Although 90 percent of the life saving substance is water, it also contains dissolved salts and minerals like calcium, sodium, magnesium and potassium that transport microbe-fighting antibodies to diseases that might be in the body, according to The Franklin Institute.

The BioLife Plasma Center in Tyler sees a lot of college students.

"About 30 percent of our donors are college students," Shane Larson, manager of the Tyler facility said. "Their donations have a definite impact on the success of our center."

The Tyler facility is one of the top 10 centers in the BioLife company, out of 63 across the nation.

"The money I got helped with gas and extra things," Erin



PHOTO BY ABACA PRESS

A ROYAL DONATION King Abdallah II and Queen Rania of Jordan give their blood and plasma to set an example

Durham, TJC student, said.

Donors can make up to \$55 in a week, which adds up to almost three thousand dollars a year.

"Many students use the money they receive for books, tuition and groceries. But some are using the money to pay for their spring break trips or to make car payments," Larson said.

Not all of the people who

donate do so just because of the money.

"I give because it helps other people, and it's a good feeling knowing that you're helping other people," TJC student Jesse Mitchell said. "But being able to get the money was nice too."

The center is more than just a doctor's office for a lot of the regulars, with the waiting room full of bold colors

that made potential donors feel welcomed.

"It is a social place too. You can definitely tell when the college students are here. It gets louder but that's alright. We want you to be comfortable here," Larson said.

"I knew some of the people there before I went, but everyone talks to you," Mitchell said.

On the first visit a patient can expect to be there for about two hours with all the screening and the actual but after the first visit, patients are usually out in less than an hour.

"It was really nice to be able to go on my time, and they had extended hours. I didn't have to worry about missing class," Durham said.

Plasma is used in many life-saving medicines according to the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association.

Every year 22 million liters of plasma are used in these medicines and from these 22 million liters, more than 1 million people worldwide receive plasma therapeutics every year and is still a growing number.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CARNEGIE GIVES TJC TEACHER BIG HONOR

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education have named TJC's Dr. Manoucher Khosrowshahi the 2008 Texas Professor of the Year.

Dr. Khosrowshahi was selected from nearly 300 top professors in the United States.

The U.S. Professors of the Year program salutes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country — those who excel in teaching and positively influence the lives and careers of students.

PORTFOLIO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The juniors and seniors from John Tyler, Mineola, Robert E. Lee, Troup and Van High schools recently participated in the third annual Portfolio Contest, sponsored by the Tyler Junior College graphic arts and photography department.

There were 126 total entries in the areas of photography, illustration and print design.

Contest attendees were invited to see TJC graphic arts students at work while touring the computer and photography labs.

Winners included Libby Bush, Michael Castlerlin, Ayesha Erkin and other students that finished in runner-up positions.

POLICE GIVE HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

This holiday season, auto burglars will shop the easy way — by stealing your gifts, purses wallets packages or other valuables you leave in plain sight inside your vehicle.

About every two minutes, a vehicle is burglarized in Texas with its contents stolen.

Obviously, these crimes escalate during this time of year when people increase shopping and don't take the necessary precautions to protect personal items left in a vehicle.

Auto burglars scout mall and other large parking lots, waiting for the opportunity to break into a vehicle.

Within seconds, they take your items, your identity, and sometimes, your car.

Drivers need to understand careless actions with vehicles and items left inside actually help auto burglars and thieves.

National gun sales hit record high in recent months

By Matt Loving
News Editor

Most of the time, the only sounds in Tyler's Lock and Load gun store is the sound of target practice in the firing range.

But for the past few weeks, the store has been filled with nine to 10 prospective patrons at one time, discussing features and prices on possible purchases. This is more than usual.

"We've definitely been very busy," local firing range and Tyler gun store employee Kenneth Lottman said. "We're booked for the next four months on our Concealed Hand Gun class."

Citizens continued to purchase firearms in record numbers for October and November to bring the national gun sale average up 15 percent and rising.

Last month, more than 108,000 background checks were ordered nationwide just for these purchases. East Texas is no different.

"People are worried they won't be able to buy guns because of Obama's [anti-gun policy]," Lottman said.

Currently, eligible citizens are allowed to purchase almost any gun they please. Long-range rifles, powerful shotguns, and semi-automatic guns are some of the more controversial categories that remain legal.

Maybe the most controversial issue is the Castle law, which states that if an intruder comes into a home or a vehicle and the owner or resident believes that death or harm is intended, then the resident may shoot to kill without fear of indictment.

The National Firearm Association has proclaimed

the president elect the most anti-gun president ever elected. Obama has denied this in past interviews.

"I will not take your shotgun away," Obama said in an October appearance in Ohio. "I will not take your rifle away. I won't take your handgun away."

Some are still not convinced.

"I'm planning on [buying a gun] because I know that Obama is gonna make it to where we can't buy any," Garrett Lynn, a Tyler gun owner and hunter, said.

Mark Tushnet, a Harvard Law Professor who has written about the gun debate, said that changing the gun law will not be much of a priority to the Obama administration.

Current law in Texas allows almost anybody to own firearms, unlicensed and without a permit in most cases.

"You could walk down the street with a shotgun and nobody could say anything to you," police officer Don Martin said.

But with a Democratic president and congress, legislation might fall on friendly ears.

The Athens Banner-Herald in Georgia reported that a gun shop in Georgia displayed a sign that read "Obama sale" but was soon taken down when complaints were voiced about what that might imply.

Many believe that the gun laws that are currently in place are effective.

As a result, gun related homicides have dropped 40 percent in the past 15 years, with 60 percent of firearm deaths being suicides, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. For more information visit the Bureau of Justice Web site.

CYCLISTS

continued from page 1

accidents. The 20 to 29-year-old age group proved to have the most fatalities of any age group. Anywhere from 30 percent to 46 percent of the fatalities that occurred between 1990 and 1999 were from that age group. Also, night-time riders proved to be more at risk than those that chose to ride during the day, as many as 70 percent of the 1,021 motorcyclists died at night in 1990.

Accidents that occurred off main roads that involved non-moving objects accounted for 6,798 deaths in the 90s. The report went on to list a multitude of other reasons for motorcycle fatalities that included speeding, alcohol, etc.

However, there are lots of reasons why students covet these machines. They are inexpensive compared to the cost of a full-size car, truck or SUVs. They cost students much less at the gas pump, are easy to maintain, and the problem of finding a parking space virtually disappears. They satisfy the desires of the materialistic and soothe the need for



CHRIS O'LEARY

speed of adrenaline junkies with a twist of a wrist. But is that worth risking your life?

Most people who ride motorcycles are aware of the dangers involved, but some have the, "that won't happen to me, mentality."

"I know a couple guys that think they are invincible on a bike, but I've crashed before and know what it's like," student and motorcyclist Alen Moffitt said.

Turns out, danger may be beyond the motorcyclist's control.

"In traffic, you cannot control what others are going to do," Brandon Green, another TJC student and cyclist, said. "Every time I get on a bike, I know there is always the danger of something bad that could happen."

Both Green and Moffitt said that while riding their motorcycles, they are much more in tune with what is happening around them, but as O'Leary's case proves, sometimes that is not enough.

As reported in the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, Angela K. Daniels, 38, of Tyler was driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol when she got behind the wheel that fateful afternoon. She made the decision to drive, which effectively ended the promising life of a talented young man. O'Leary had no control over Daniels' actions, but was the one who paid the price for her mistakes.

It's a game of chance where the loser could not only get seriously injured, but could also end up dead. "You're pretty much just flipping a coin," Green said.

LAW

continued from page 1

Trista Hargrove, Media Advocacy Associate Director of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. "Michelle's Law would allow full-time college students facing a serious medical condition and covered under their parent's health plan to take up to a one-year medical leave of absence so they can focus on their treatment without the risk of losing their health coverage."

Michelle's Law was named after Michelle Morose, a college student at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. She was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2003, was forced to remain a full-time student in order to keep her health insurance, despite doctor's recommendations, and later died on Nov. 10, 2005.

Michelle's law covers most serious illnesses ranging from cancer to diseases like Lowe's cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. A defective gene causes the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that leads to life

threatening lung infections as well as other serious conditions. Lowe said the disease requires lots of time and management.

"Long story short, I have to take about four to five hours of meds every day, even more if I have an infection, and I have doctors visits about one to two times a month," Lowe said. "I'm also currently going through a lung transplant evaluation, so that makes the doctors visits even more often."

Lowe said she only takes about nine to 10 hours of classes a semester, which makes it easier to deal with medications, work and school.

Hargrove said that Michelle's Law could benefit an estimated 2,400 college students diagnosed with cancer this year; it would also benefit college students facing other serious medical conditions.

"Michelle's law will be a help to full-time college students facing a serious medical condition such as cancer, as well as their families," Hargrove said. "It will allow them to focus on getting better without the added burden of having to carry

a full-time course load just to keep their health coverage."

Another TJC student who has faced this issue is Rick Stanley. Stanley said his insurance company tried to drop his coverage after he dropped some of his classes because of a continuing medical disorder.

"They just sent a form letter. It said something to the effect of, 'unless you are enrolled in school full-time, we won't pay for any of your doctors visits,'" Stanley said. "The insurance company should pay. It is your fault that you get sick."

Michelle's Law was being pushed through the House of Representatives by U.S. Representatives Paul Hodes (D-NH) and Mike Castle (R-DE) and was passed by the House in July of 2008.

The bill was pushed through the Senate by Senator John Sununu (R-NH), Judge Gregg (R-NH) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY).

The senate passed the bill in September of 2008.

For more information on background about the bill, go to www.michelleslaw.com.

SOLDIER

continued from page 1

East Texas and try to do something close to home. He had attended summer classes at TJC and thought the school might be a good fit.

"I e-mailed Ms. Angela Clemons [Staff Coordinator for athletics] and asked if it would be a possibility for me to do an internship with them. They welcomed me. I was very open and up front with my military obligations, and they were OK with it," Smith said.

The internship came to a conclusion at the end of 2005, and Smith needed just one more class to graduate, but he was at a financial crossroad in his life. He needed money badly and still did not have his degree. That spring he worked on the Barksdale Air Force in Louisiana. While there, he also took a TJC online class and had to drive back every Saturday for a lab. On the Saturdays he would drive back into Tyler, he would often stop by to visit with Clemons and Athletic Director Dr. Tim Drain.

"I wanted to stay in contact with them and have a strong reference after I graduated. About the time that I knew I was going to graduate, the current Assistant Athletic Director Reid Kerr had just resigned. I remember asking Dr. Drain if there was a chance that I would be a candidate for the job since I was graduating right at the time Reid was leaving. Dr. Drain told me to fill out an application, and the rest is history," Smith said.

Smith was the assistant athletic director for more than a year when he felt he might be called to active duty.

In July of 2007, they were all requested to be at Barksdale Air Force Base. The Air Force wanted to make sure that all of the soldiers were up to date on their shots and medical records. When they left Barksdale they flew to Wisconsin for more

training.

Leaving for a foreign country can be problematic for co-workers left behind.

"As an athletic director, I knew we were going to be fine," Drain said. "Chuck gave us enough prep time so that we could make other arrangements. As a friend to Chuck, the war seemed a lot closer. Walking by his office and him not being there made it real."

They were in Wisconsin for about a month before heading over to the desert.

"When we were in Wisconsin, I don't think it had hit me yet what I was about to be doing," Smith said.

"In training you're gearing yourself to respond," Smith said. "When we were sitting on the tarmac to leave, that's when it began to hit. It was a daze of emotion."

Smith spent six and a half months in Iraq.

"One of the most important things we did was build a Toys For Tots program," Smith said.

The Toys For Tots program was created to show the kids of Iraq that American Soldiers are there to help.

The bright spot in soldier's daily lives was mail day.

"Mail day is like Christmas time over there. Everyone is happy on mail day," Smith said.

Although there are days where letters from home can make a difference, it still is hard being so far away.

"Everybody else is back home going about their business as usual," Smith said. "You realize that you have changed when you are over there due to your experiences."

"It struck home with me when I saw some of the marines who were stationed with us having memorial services, it showed that it [death] was a possibility," Smith said.

Knowing that it is a possibility, the day a soldier gets word that his/her tour of duty might be coming to an end is a day of joy.

Smith and his fellow troops didn't know a specific date when they were going to be coming home, but they did have ideas. Due to the military screening e-mails and phone calls they are not able to tell loved ones exactly when they were headed home, but they are able to drop hints.

"We would get updates on him from him or his mom," Drain said.

Eventually Drain and Clemons received an e-mail that read, "I'll be home in time to pay my taxes."

Hearing the tires of the plane touch down at the Barksdale Air Force Base knowing that we are going to see the friends and family that we've left behind to go defend our country was overwhelming. It was awesome to feel the love and support, Smith said.

Drain and Clemons were a few of the many people who gathered to greet Smith as he walked off the plane. After the group said their hellos, they all



Photo Courtesy of Charles Smith

HOME SWEET HOME Intercollegiate Athletics Assistant Director Charles Smith hugs his mom after returning home from Iraq.

went out to lunch. When the meal was over and the table was deciding who would be on whose check. The waiter walked over to Smith and said that his meal was taken care of. He also said two words, "thank you."

After getting a much-needed vacation, Smith returned to the TJC Athletic Department.

"I felt as if I was a new hire. I had to place friendly reminders around my office to remind me of what I needed to

do," Smith said.

Soon the sticky notes began to come off the wall and as Smith eased back into his old job. It is something that every soldier has to go through, getting back to what is normal.

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SCAMS

continued from page 1

a fee. Also avoid any organization that charges you a fee for information about financial aid, a fee to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and if they charge a fee to receive financial aid.

"Do not send any money. Please ignore the letter and throw it away."

"Pass the word to your friends about the 'scam,'" Devon Wiggins, director of financial aid, said.

Students should also beware of offers that promise scholarships guaranteed or your money back. No one can guarantee your scholarship before it is awarded.

Also watch out for compa-

nies that need your credit card information to hold your scholarship. You should never have to give this information to legitimate providers.

"Students or families who have received this letter should contact the financial office as soon as possible," Wiggins said. "And those who have fallen for this scam should write a formal letter requesting their money be refunded."

To avoid being scammed, check the legitimacy of scholarship search organizations.

For information about financial aid scams and tips to avoid being scammed contact the Better Business Bureau, U.S. Department of Education, or the Federal Trade Commission.

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Leadership class grants child's parade wish this year

By Daisy Valle
Staff Writer

Three months pregnant and expecting twins, she received the phone call every expecting mother dreads: a nurse describing potential complications. Frantic and scared, she quickly hung up only to realize that one of her twins would face lifelong challenges.

"I remember when I was going [to the sonogram technician]," Aja McCollon, mother of George said, "I had never even heard of that." "You hear of things such as mental retardation. You know what that is, but not things like hydrocephalus."

Nine-year-old George has been living with hydrocephalus. Also called "water on the brain," the disease is an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the brain that can cause pressure in the skull, enlargement in the head, and mental disability.

He also has agenesis, a birth defect in which the structure that connects the two hemispheres of the brain is partially or completely absent.

Cara, his older sister and self-proclaimed bodyguard, has been

looking out for George for all of his life. This blended Brady Bunch has a pair of twins and a daughter from the mother's side and three more children from the father's side. For John, becoming George's stepfather was an easy transition, as well as life changing.

"George came into my life about two years ago and everything about me has changed," John said. "I have a different outlook towards life altogether. You can't have a bad day, really. You might think you're having a bad day, but then in five minutes later it's a whole different story."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation has only two requirements: the child must be 2 1/2 to 18 years old and have a life-threatening condition.

"The child can be referred by either their parents or by their physician or by a school nurse or a social worker at the hospital or themselves," Wendy Frizel, director of development said.

In George's case, his school nurse at Union Hill ISD referred him. His nurse's referral will have a lasting impact on George.

George's wish was be sponsored by the leadership class of Tyler Junior

College. This was the fifth year the class has selected a child to grant a wish for. Their donation strategy was simple yet effective, ranging from selling raffle tickets to a human auction.

They reached their goal as a result of their drive and George's wish commenced on Thanksgiving.

George's wish was to visit the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. He and his family were taken to New York City and were able to ride the Empire State Building elevator. The next morning after their stay, they were picked up by a limousine and placed in a shuttle to arrive at the parade. Make-A-Wish arranged so that three of his favorite floats passed right in front of him including Dora the Explorer.

George's wish and memory will have a lasting impact on him. Frizel also said that whenever a child is upset or struggling due to their condition, they tend to pull out their pictures from their Wish in hopes to escape reality.

George still wears diapers and is attending the second grade as a 9-year-old, but his mother described him as smart and funny by being



Courtesy Photo

ANOTHER WISH GRANTED The leadership class helped George McCollon's dream come true with a trip to the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. George is seen here posing with a jersey.

able to type and spell flawlessly. He continues to reach milestones. After years of pureeing his meals, George was able to eat solid food recently. After a recent visit to TJC to talk to

the leadership class, Mrs. McCollon watched George walk back toward her, side-by-side with her husband and said "I wouldn't want George any other way."

Students are forced out for the holidays

By Satin Scott
Staff Writer

Some parents of dorm residents had to make financial plans for their sons and daughters to come home for the holidays.

On Dec. 12, all Tyler Junior College dorm residents have to be out of the dorm by noon due to school being closed for the Fall semester break.

Donald Moore, residential assistant of Holley Hall said students would have to talk to Residential Director on why they have not left if they aren't gone by noon.

Residents will be able to reserve the same room next semester if they have already paid. If a resident has not paid in full for the Spring, they will need to check out before they leave for the semester break.

— see HOLIDAYS page 7 —

Bookstores provide end of semester cash for books

By Jasmine Smith
Student Life Editor

Selling back textbooks is one way students can get extra money for the holidays.

Students can sell their books to off-campus bookstores for as much as half of what they paid, depending on many factors.

"I hope to get back at least \$160 for all of my books from this semester," said sophomore Daniel Caldwell.

Most students don't know that during the end of each semester is the best time to sell books back to get the greatest value.

"The week before exams is the best time to start selling books for half price. If students come in during mid-terms, they get wholesale value, which is about a quarter of the value," Dee Dee Hanson, College Books, said.

If students buy a new book they can get up to half of what they paid back, and if students buy a used book they may still get half of what they paid in most cases.

For example, if the book will be used again, if the instructors don't change editions, if the book is in good shape, and if the bookstore isn't overstocked students may get up to half of



Photo by Michael George

STACKS OF BOOKS ON DECK to return for cash. It's every student's favorite time of the semester when they get to trade in their books for a portion of what they paid.

their money back.

"I've hardly read any of my books this semester, and I'm ready for my refund," freshman Ben Ayers said.

College Books, will buy books back from TJC students and non-TJC students as well. TJC students must have a current student ID and non-TJC students will only receive the wholesale

value of their books.

"Students must have a current student ID because people steal like crazy," Dee Dee Hanson said.

Though some students order their books online, College Books will not buy back those books if it is an international version, a teacher's edition or an older edition, which student's can find

online really cheap.

"We don't like to turn students down, so if we think we can sell a book to a whole sale used book company, we will pay the student what the whole sale company would pay me for the book," Anne Clower said.

There is no limit on the number of books students can sell back.

"It's a guessing game. After we think we've bought back enough books to meet our quota, we stop buying books back from students," Ann Clower said.

This year the books with labs that include an access code cause the student to get back a lot less than what they would if they bought a book without the labs.

"When students buy new books with my math labs (for example), when we buy the book back from the student we have to deduct \$70 off to be able to replace the math lab access code for the next student," Ann and Dee Dee said.

Some students believe they don't get half as much as they paid when they sell their books back.

"I still appreciate the fact that the bookstores allow us to get money back because all I know is there might be colleges that don't buy books back," Caldwell said.

Facilities to be upgraded across campus

By Dennis Gonsoulin
Staff Writer

As another semester nears its end, students continue to hunt for the nearest available parking spot and trudge through the familiar hallways on their way to class. The masses of students hustle in and out of the doors of the many buildings of the historic TJC campus, many of which display flooring and paint not upgraded in several years.

Over the Christmas break, improvements in many of the TJC facilities will be underway. Paint, tile and carpet, is slated to be installed at several locations on campus.

Carpet replacement will take place in the hallways of White administration building and the Rogers board dining room. Paint and new carpet will also be implemented in the support services and testing center, where it has not been upgraded in 20 years.

New tile will be installed in the athletic field house, the Wise Cultural Arts Center practice rooms, the Learning center and Potter hall, which is also to receive new paint. In addition, a privately funded extension will be made to the Brundrett Gardens in front of Wise Auditorium.

"We looked at the facilities and determined these changes were necessary to make the buildings more comfortable and inviting for education," said Brian Turman, director of camps services.

While the modifications occurring over the Christmas break will be the most immediate visible improvement



Photo by Jasmine Smith

POTTER GOES MODERN Sophomore Jennifer Davidson is seen studying in one the renovated areas inside Potter Hall. Other renovations will be made throughout the campus between the fall break and the start of spring semester.

to the campus, the changes won't stop here. While new flooring, paint, and furniture are in the process of being added in multiple locations throughout campus, new property acquisitions are underway.

"We're in the process of creating a new master plan for the campus," said Turman.

Among the potential property purchases is a 10.8 acre tract of land adjacent to the TJC West campus, a property on Fleishel St. and the College Books store. Four homes at 1003, 1011, 1015 and 1019 S. Porter Street have already been purchased by TJC and are soon to be demolished and will

potentially become new parking for the school.

"Everybody would like to see more parking on campus. Sometimes it seems impossible to find a parking spot in time to make it to class," sophomore Jason Norton said.

In addition to new construction and remodeling of existing buildings is the continued preventative maintenance performed on the facilities, including repairs and upkeep on the school's security cameras.

With facilities being upgraded and existing structures undergoing routine maintenance, campus services will remain busy throughout each semester.

Students find ways to handle end of year stress

By Ryan Chriss
Online Editor

For students the arrivals of the holiday season brings one more event that doesn't involve gifts or bright lights - finals.

Students this time of year are preparing for both the holidays and finals, creating stress for students.

"It affects my performance at school. Teachers give you so much work, and it makes it harder, but college is all about how much you can take," sophomore Jermaine Stovall said.

Other students agreed. "It is a lot on a student, getting gifts for your family, with everything wrapping up at school," sophomore Holly Hooten said.

With everything coming to an end some students are trying to get all the information that they can before the end of the semester.

"You're stuck trying to learn everything you can all at one time, and then you're still focused on the upcoming holiday break," said Chance Tutt, sophomore.

Not all students feel like there is any added stress during the holiday season.

"There aren't any extra stresses during finals," Maria Hernandez said, "I have taken

care of all my work and I am not worried about my finals."

Some students think that they know of a few good ways to avoid or get rid of the holiday and final blues. Students gave many different answers including one way to avoid the stress all together.

"I try to get lots of sleep," said Latoya Jackson. "Cause when you are asleep you are completely stress free."

"I try to go to the TJC recreation center and play pool as much as I can," Durham said.

Other students feel like they just need a small break to get their mind off their troubles.

"I try to do at least one thing a day that has nothing to do with school or work," Hooten said.

"I like to listen to jazz. It helps to calm me down and focus," Ahmon Allen said.

And one student thinks that finals don't have to be around the holidays at all.

I think that if we started school a few weeks earlier and end a few weeks earlier then we would avoid some of the stress," Tutt added.

Organization receives funds for events on campus

By Deontai Dorsey
Staff Writer

As of a couple of weeks ago Tyler Junior Colleges, Student Services Fee Advisory Committee (SSFAC), allocated money towards different groups on campus.

The SSFAC, is capable of spending up to half a million dollars on organizations at TJC. However, the student senate must recognize each group as an official school organization before distributing funds.

In order to receive money, each organization had to speak before the committee to promote how they will fulfill the three core promises of TJC which are, quality education, vibrant student life, and community service.

Most of the organizations were rewarded funds; however, not all received as much as they asked.

Dr. Mark Jones director of The Baptist Student Ministry had no problem getting the \$10,000 they requested.

"Some people have that ability to get more money," Dr. Lane, vice president for student affairs, said. "They like him so much and the programs he does, he'll come in and ask for peanuts and for some reason when they hear his request they'll give him more", said Dr. Lane.

TJC's first promise, 'Quality of Education,' is hoped to be accomplished by interpreting faith with the education and current events of today. A portion of the \$10,000 is desired to go

towards guest speakers to enhance education and to provide any extra expenses for the guest like transportation.

A 'Vibrant Student Life', the second promise, was proposed to be completed by various events on campus.

Every Wednesday, there is a free lunch located in the BSM building. Funds keep the weekly event going, even if donations for the lunch, back out at the last minute.

Thursday nights are dedicated to bringing students an alternative to the club scene. The students are greeted with open doors, free pancakes and company. Music, Comedy, Poetry, and a bible prayer fill the room during the open Mic night line-up.

In prior years, Thursday nights were primarily focused on worship music and bible study. Realizing the diversity of religions and cultures on campus, open Mic night was brought about to build bridges between the students, helping them seek the truth.

"We hope they come for more than just pancakes", says Dr. Mark Jones.

Lastly, 'Community Service' is the third promise BSM plans to fulfill.

One of the community services opportunities that will be available is adopting of families during the holiday season. Other services contribute to getting their message out around the campus and community.

Pursue God, love students, and make disciples are the core values of BSM. Its members are encouraged to build relationships with other



Photo by Deontai Dorsey

FREE LUNCH is provided to students every Wednesday by the Baptist Student Ministry at the Baptist Student Center on campus. The BSM organization gets funded through SSFAC and is able to provide students with many free perks.

students by hearing and sharing stories.

Understanding the basic needs of other students, and occasional free laundry night is hosted on and off campus. The \$10,000 has sufficient plans to not only fulfill the three promises of TJC but also help to provide a way to accomplish Baptist Student Ministries purpose to represent Christ on campus in a more practical way.

The majority of the money allocated to the organization will be spent on food, but because of their hope for more laundry nights, fun and games during finals weeks and the possibility of a battle of the bands.

Whatever the event may be, the funds provided will allow them to live out their purpose.

HOLIDAYS

continued from page 6

Some students live in different cities, states, countries, and even continents.

Rainier Amankwah, resident of Holley Hall, is from Ghana, West Africa.

"For Christmas I have to go home and to go to Ghana. It will cost me \$2,200. It is pressure on parents to have to come up with money," said Rainier.

Jesse Camacho, also resident of Holley,

lives in Luling, Texas, which is 45 minutes south of Austin.

"I have to catch a \$250 plane ticket and that's a lot just to be traveling a few hours across Texas and I don't want a \$50 bus ticket because its 10 hours to sit next to people I don't know," Camacho said.

Students who are not coming back next semester have to make sure that their belongings are out of the room.

"My mama's pockets are most affected. Then she have to pay for the extra luggage," said Camacho.

It may be cheaper for students to stay in the dorms during the semester break, however, athletic students who stay on the dorms are the only residents who have the choice to stay during the holidays.

Melody Huff, area coordinator of residential said that no other students but athletic stu-

dents are allowed to stay in the dorms during the break with no exceptions.

"We inform the students at the beginning that they have to make arrangements to go home," Huff said.

Residential directors of the athletic dorms have to stay with the athletic students do decide to stay during the holidays.

If students can't go home some students even stay with friends for the holidays.

Background checks not required for dorm residents

By Ryan Chriss
Online Editor

With the growing number of students at TJC and the new addition of the Louise H. and Joseph Z. Ornelas residence hall, the safety of the students in the dorms and on campus is a growing concern for some students.

With roughly 1,000 students now living on campus coming from various backgrounds and experiences, some of the recent fights and incidents on campus may be inevitable.

In the month of October alone, Campus Safety responded to 24 different dorm disturbances.

But are background checks a good, viable option for monitoring the students that a college or university allows to live on campus?

All dorm applicants are required to answer one question about their criminal background on the student housing application for TJC. The question asks whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony or subjected to deferred adjudication on a felony charge.

"We do have ways of performing background checks, but we haven't had a student

answer 'yes' on the application," said Angela Nunez, TJC housing director.

Any students who answer's "yes" to this question on the application would be handled on a "case by case basis" said Melody Huff, area coordinator of Residential Life and Housing.

"TJC has an open door policy and is not looking to find anything," Huff said.

If a student were to answer "yes" to the housing question, Nunez said, "I would ask to speak to them, preferably in person, if they are available, and we would then do a background check on that student and base our decision on that."

Several students said that they would understand the reasons that a college or university would choose to perform background checks.

"For one reason if they did do that, it would be done for our safety and it would not bother me," said freshman Derrick Hampton, resident of Lewis Hall.

Other students feel that it would make the dorms not just safer, but also a better place for them to live and learn.

"I think that we should have background checks so

that we would be safer in the dorms and maybe would have more responsible residents," said student Megan Dauman, Ornelas resident.

Other colleges may be considering adding background checks as a tool to monitor who they are allowing to live on campus housing.

"We don't have a criminal history question on the application, but we are in the process of redoing our on-campus housing application," said Stephen F. Austin State University Housing Specialist Donna Hammond.

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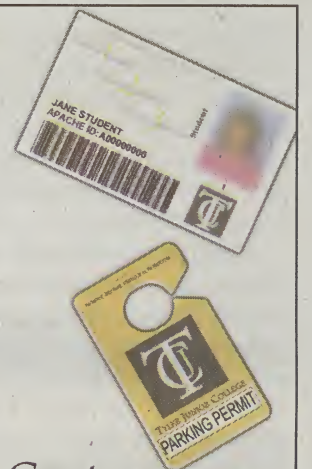
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Students beware credit card theft during holiday season

Madison Payne
Staff Writer

'Tis the season for family, happiness, candy canes, and credit card theft.

Families across the U.S. favor online shopping for the holidays. \$44 billion will be spent on online shopping this holiday season according to Forrester Research Inc. Due to the economic status, consumers are more likely to purchase online due to the possibility to save money.

Forrester Research Inc. calculated that in 2007 about 33% of all purchases made in the holiday season were paid for by credit cards, and 40% paid with debit cards.

Credit card holders can be victim of fraud within seconds of making a purchase from an unknown Web site, or by purchasing an item over the phone and giving out the

TIPS TO PREVENT THEFT

- Do not leave your purse in the car. If you do, put it in the trunk.
- While shopping, keep credit cards in your pocket.
- Avoid giving credit card information over the phone.
- During the holidays, park in a well-lit area.
- Have your keys out before leaving the store.

credit card number.

Usually for the credit card holder, the first sign that they are a victim of theft is the unknown purchases on the credit card bill, but even then it might be too late.

"I had a nanny that would take my credit card during the day and make her purchases with it, then bring it back to my house. I noticed unknown purchases on our credit card bill. It took us 92 days to catch her. Our lawyer said he could have done more if we had caught her at 90 days," said Kimberly Lee, a Bul-

lard resident.

Not only is it inconvenient to have your credit card stolen, but also it may take years to repair the damage that has been done.

"To this day, it still is an absolute hell. We had to put a fraud alert out on my card, and it is very hard for me to use my own credit card for purchases. I do not want to cancel the card because it is well established credit," Lee said.

Jackie S. Warren, Vice President of Operations at the Better Business Bureau of Mississippi, gives some

helpful tips to prevent credit card theft.

"Check your credit card statements regularly. While at a restaurant keep a good watch on your card while it is being processed. Request a credit check at least twice a year."

Shoppers also need to worry about the actual products being purchased on Web sites such as eBay.

In the U.K., a man by the name of Chris Read is being sued for libel for leaving honest feedback on a Joel Jones's eBay account due to a cell phone that Jones sold to Read.

Read claims that he did not receive the cell phone that he had purchased, but an older version that was scratched and dented.

According to the eBay Security Center, situations like these can be prevented by the "ask seller a question" link. That link will allow the buyers to ask the sellers additional questions that they might want an-

swered before making a purchase. For additional tips visit the Security Center at eBay.com.

Online theft isn't the only common theft during the holiday season.

With the packed malls and department stores, a customer might make it very easy for someone to snatch their purse.

That won't only give them access to credit cards; they could walk away with everything from driver's license to social security cards.

"Do not leave your purse in the car, and if you do, put it in the trunk," Detective Rhoads, of the Tyler Police Department, said. "While shopping, keep your credit cards in your pocket instead of a purse. Avoid giving credit card information out over the phone. During the holidays always park in a well-lit area and have your keys out before leaving the store."

DONATE

continued from page 1

Kirkland also said that Salvation Army offered disaster relief to victims of Hurricane Ike.

Kirkland described a young girl (Ike evacuee) carrying her child on her hip with a worried face. A simple can of Pringles brought joy even though so much had been taken from her; she and her child were going to be all right.

Year after year, the Salvation Army distributes the toys that are donated to the fire fighters. Kirkland also said that any volunteers are welcome for the holiday season.

PATH: People Attempting To Help

Their stomachs empty and holding hands, a recently laid off single mother and her 5 year-old son walk into PATH for the first time. Greeted with open arms, the small family feels comfort and relief for the first time in months.

"PATH doesn't have a normal client at PATH," said Becky Duncan, community outreach coordinator "People who come to PATH are often

in Panic mode."

PATH and the East Texas Food Bank band together this time of year in the PATH pantry.

PATH pantry is set up for volunteers to bag groceries so that it contains a good mixture of the food groups. The bags are shipped to a family or individuals in need that aren't able to leave their home.

PATH has become a focal point for Tyler citizens who want to receive any help at all. Path offers rental homes to needy families, that qualify, with a low rent and a home. These rental homes range from \$250 to \$500.

PATH also offers eye care and a learning center. Duncan said that they use one of their rooms to teach the older generation how to operate a computer.

PATH is always looking for volunteers and is currently holding a blanket drive for any gently used blanket. Drop off locations are any Cleaning Co. locations.

Students to study abroad in Costa Rica

By Dennis Gonsoulin
Staff Writer

Imagine an exotic land far from home with lush tropical rainforests, pristine beaches, fiery active volcanoes, and a vibrant array of cultural experiences.

Many students would love to escape the familiar landscape of East Texas, and through a program offered by the TJC foreign language department, that dream can be a reality this spring.

Project Costa Rica will take 21 travelers on a 10-day journey from May 10 through May 19 to the Central American country. This will be John Hays', Foreign Language Department Chair, 11th student trip to guide, but it will be his first time taking students to Costa Rica.

Hays has taught Spanish at TJC for 32 years, and has taken 10 student groups to Yucatan, Mexico in the past. He has traveled to several other Central and South American destinations including Belize, Venezuela and Paraguay, where he served for two years as a volunteer with the Peace Corp.

"I wanted this trip to be different than just a tour. It's a service project as well," Hays said.

"Globalization is a huge item. We want TJC students to realize they have a part to play in the world."

— John Hays
TJC Spanish teacher

While the details are not yet certain, the trip will include two days of public service working with the people of Costa Rica. On Nov. 23, Hays took a trip to Costa Rica to determine where and what the travelers will be doing to fulfill this portion of the trip.

The remainder of the trip will be spent as tourists, including exploring the country's tropical cloud forests, visiting the beaches of Costa Rica with an opportunity for surfing and scuba diving, and a hike around Arenal, an active volcano. The trip will conclude in San Jose, the country's capital, which boasts 15 museums, hundreds of restaurants, and a rich culture and history.

The total cost of the trip is \$2,050 plus a mandatory travel and health insurance fee of \$108. While this figure might put the trip out of many poten-

tial travelers' reach, there are five \$1,000 scholarships, given by the Student Senate, available to help offset the cost. While the trip is open to anyone, the scholarships are exclusively for TJC students.

To apply for one of the scholarships, students must submit a two-page essay describing their educational goals and how they blend with the three promises of TJC — a vibrant student life, a quality education, and community service. The application also requires an official transcript from the registrar, a letter of recommendation from a teacher, and a cover page with name, address and phone number.

The deadline to turn in the \$450 deposit to reserve a spot on the trip is Dec. 31. The scholarship application can be submitted any time before Jan. 21, with recipients being notified by Feb. 2.

While the experience will be leisure-filled, the intention of the trip is to educate, not just entertain.

"Globalization is a huge item. We want TJC students to realize they have a part to play in the world, and that we're a very small piece in this huge puzzle," Hays said.

For more information contact Hays at (903) 510-2708.

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Photo courtesy of lost-media.com

"WE HAVE TO GO BACK!" "Lost" begins its final two seasons on Jan. 21 with the "Oceanic 6" (pictured on the left) trying to return to the island and its inhabitants (pictured on the right) who are still lost on the island.

The beginning of the end of "Lost": With two seasons of ABC's hit drama left, answers will be found

By Natalie Kushner
Arts & Entertainment Editor

At the close of Season Four of ABC's "Lost," all the information that viewers had about what connected the events past and present was a haunting statement from the former island hero and leader of the Oceanic 815 survivors, Jack Shephard.

"He told me that when I left the Island some very bad things happened... and that it was my fault for leaving."

As cryptic as it may be (as everything is on "Lost") that strange statement sets up the premiere of Season Five, titled, "Because You Left," and hints about the shape of things to come — as stark as they may be — in the final 34 hours of the series.

As most people know, the series began in 2004 and became an overnight sensation. Following the story of 48 survivors of plane crash on a seemingly deserted island, the series became unique for its blend of detailed characterization through the use of "flashbacks" and mythology that bordered on science fiction. Season One averaged 18.6 million viewers per episode and won six Emmy awards including Outstanding Drama Series. Twenty-one million viewers tuned in for the premiere of Season Two in 2005, which questioned the mystery of the Island and set up an inevitable collision with its previous inhabitants called "The Others."

However, midway through the second season, fan approval began to slip and ABC noted the abysmal drop in ratings, especially after "repeat" airings of episodes, which frustrated some viewers to the breaking point. One fan even made a website called IsLostARepet.com. ABC tried to amend this by breaking the 22 episodes of Season Three into two "nonstop" runs from September to October and then again from February to May. Season Three, which dealt with who the Others are and what they want from the plane crash survivors, continued to lose viewers and reached a low of 11 million. It became apparent that fans were dissatisfied not only with repeats, but the sluggish storylines slowed down even more by irrelevant flashbacks (an episode's flashback was entirely devoted to how Jack got his tattoos) and equally irrelevant characters (two of them being Nikki and Paulo, introduced in Season Three as survivors of the plane crash that viewers had supposedly not noticed on screen for the previous 48 episodes).

Season Four's 14 episodes used the idea of "flash-forwards" and relevant flashbacks to revitalize the show, as well as delving deeper into its science fiction aspects. By the season's end on

"To use the word 'flashback' [at this point] might be disingenuous."

— Damon Lindelof
Co-Executive Producer, *Lost*

Co-executive producers Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse understood the only way to appease fans was to give them what they want. ABC and the producers came to an agreement a few weeks before the Season Three finale: all the answers of "Lost" would be revealed in three more seasons with a series finale in May 2010 at the conclusion of Season Six. Two weeks later on May 23, 2007, Season Three concluded with a shocking change of format: a "flash-forward" where six survivors are rescued, but Jack, who was perhaps the most determined of all to get off the Island, now sorrowfully and drunkenly proclaims that they "have to go back."

Season Four's 14 episodes used the idea of "flash-forwards" and relevant flashbacks to revitalize the show, as well as delving deeper into its science fiction aspects. By the season's end on

May 29, viewers received their answers of who the "Oceanic Six" are and how they were rescued, while writers threw another stunning, sci-fi curveball as the Island and those left behind literally vanished. Winning critical praise, Season Four tied up character histories in previous flashbacks by having the Oceanic Six come home, introduced intriguing new characters (some with "special" abilities), explored the supernatural "power" of the Island, and presented the uncanny idea that the survivors may have not only been lost in space but also in time.

With the premiere of Season Five six weeks away, some details have already been leaked about what to expect.

Michael Emerson, whose character is Ben Linus, the former leader of the Others, "pulled the switch" that made the Island vanish and was teleported to the middle of a desert in Africa — 20 months into the future — hinted at the possibility that the Island may now be lost in a separate time as well as location.

At the end of Season Four, three of the main cast were supposedly "killed off," which is a relative term on "Lost" — Michael Dawson

— see LOST page 10 —

Theatre alumni credit TJC as beginning of their careers

By Sarah Malik
Staff Writer

Imagine a stage with actors who are doing a scene from a play. Acting is what many students at TJC in the Speech and Theatre Department do, as well as alumni who are in the business already.

Acting teacher Jacque Shackelford has had some students who have gone on and made it big.

"We have lots of people who end up in the business," Shackelford said.

The theatre program at TJC has about 50 students who sign up each year. Many think they want a career in either theatre or film or want to teach theatre.

Shea Whigham graduated from TJC in 1990. Whigham is an actor living in California who has been in films "Pride and Glory" and "Wristcutters: A Love Story."

Whigham has said that TJC was a great place to start.

"No one laughed at me when I wanted to be an actor," Whigham said. "TJC got the ball rolling for me."

Whigham has many memories from TJC.

"I remember the late night building of sets with the faculty and the people that were involved," Whigham said. "The passion of the faculty there really stays with me. They are second to none."

Shea Whigham's next role is his film

"Splinter," and in 2009 he will star alongside Vin Diesel and Paul Walker in "Fast and Furious."

"Anyone can be an actor. TJC is a really great place, it gives a solid foundation to make it in the business," Whigham said.

Nick Wilkinson, a graduate of TJC in 1974, is quickly becoming America's most widely produced comedic playwright.

Wilkinson goes by Nicholas Hope in the theatre world.

"TJC gave me lots of answers about what I wanted to do with my life," Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson said he had too many favorite memories to pick just one, but that his time at TJC was the best two years of his life.

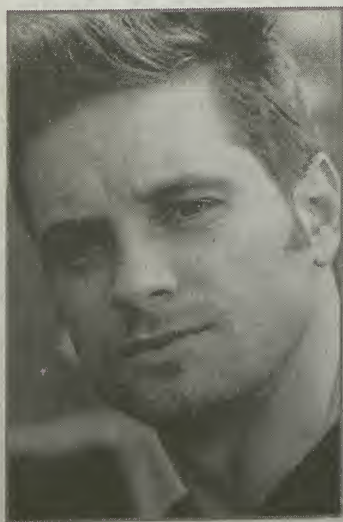
"I fell in love with theatre at TJC. We did everything from designing, prop building and acting," he said.

"Jacque Shackelford did such a fine job of taking care of us. She did good with giving us what the totality of what theatre is all about," Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson's play, "Christmas Belles," was performed by the Speech and Theatre Department at TJC. It ran from Nov. 19-23.

Although they have left and done things that would make any teacher proud, they always remember what TJC helped them become.

"I am really proud of them," Shackelford said. "It is always great to see someone achieve their goals."



SHEA WHIGHAM



Photo by Jenn Ackerman/Dallas Morning News/MCT

Lisa Collins, from left, Matt Petri, Phil Lor and Mike Ortega shop at GameStop at Northpark Mall in Dallas, on November 20.

Video game industry survives horror of troubled economy

By Victor Godinez
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Bailouts, bankruptcies, liquidations and layoffs have been the business buzzwords over the last few months, but the videogame industry remains stubbornly resistant to the gloom enveloping the rest of the economy.

While game industry executives and analysts aren't ignoring the broader economic trends, all the evidence seems to point to a robust holiday season for game makers and sellers and continued prosperity next year.

Part of the explanation

for videogames' continuing popularity, game insiders say, is the "nesting" effect, in which cash-strapped consumers stop going out and look for ways to entertain themselves while at home.

"Clearly, interactive entertainment is a great value in a down economy," said Dan DeMatteo, chief executive at Grapevine, Texas-based GameStop Corp., the largest standalone game retailer in the world.

The numbers seem to bear that out.

In October, videogame sales jumped 18 percent, according to market research

firm NPD Group.

November has been solid, too, as GameStop said in its quarterly earnings conference call this month that initial signs for the fourth quarter are positive.

There are other signs that games remain as popular and lucrative as ever.

Microsoft's Xbox 360 console went on sale on Friday, Nov. 7, and sold more than 2 million copies over the weekend.

Blizzard Entertainment Inc. said that Wrath of the Lich King, the latest expansion

— see GAMES page 10 —

The Bell Tower Art Journal gets a new look with color pages

By Shela Burgess
Staff Writer

The Bell Tower is getting a new look for 2009. The first color editions of The Bell Tower Student Arts Journal will premiere in the spring semester.

The Bell Tower was established in 2006, by Dr. Linda Gary and will be distributing its third publication this spring, said Sarah Harrison, instructor and English Department Chair.

"When I came to TJC in 2005, I was so impressed by the quality of student work and the art program here I couldn't believe TJC didn't have an arts journal," Dr. Gary, the Bell Tower's founder and editor, said.

Dr. Gary said she mentioned this to the then-Dean Richard Minter and the idea grew from there.

"It is a collaborative effort between English, Art, and Graphic Art," Harrison said, "so it crosses schools. Part is University Studies and part is Applied Studies."

The Bell Tower is an entirely student-generated publication from start to finish.

"Students have their hands in it all the way," Rebecca Stewart, instructor of Graphic Arts and Photography, said. Stewart was on the committee for 2007.

The cover design is a class project for graphic arts students to gain 'real world' experience.

The editors for The Bell Tower then select from the student-submitted designs and the group they pick creates the cover and layout.

The editors receive submissions from the student body

and meet to choose which ones will be published.

"The submissions have more than doubled. Last year we had, I think 200 [submissions]. This year [we had about] 444," Harrison said.

The selections are chosen for their "aesthetic appeal, depth and thought" Stewart said about the criteria for pieces.

The committee goes through great pains to make sure the works put in The Bell Tower are of "high quality," going as far as screening every submission through turnitin.com.

The submissions are also chosen 'blind' because the committee never knows whose work they are judging until it is actually printed.

This measure is to maintain an unbiased publication.

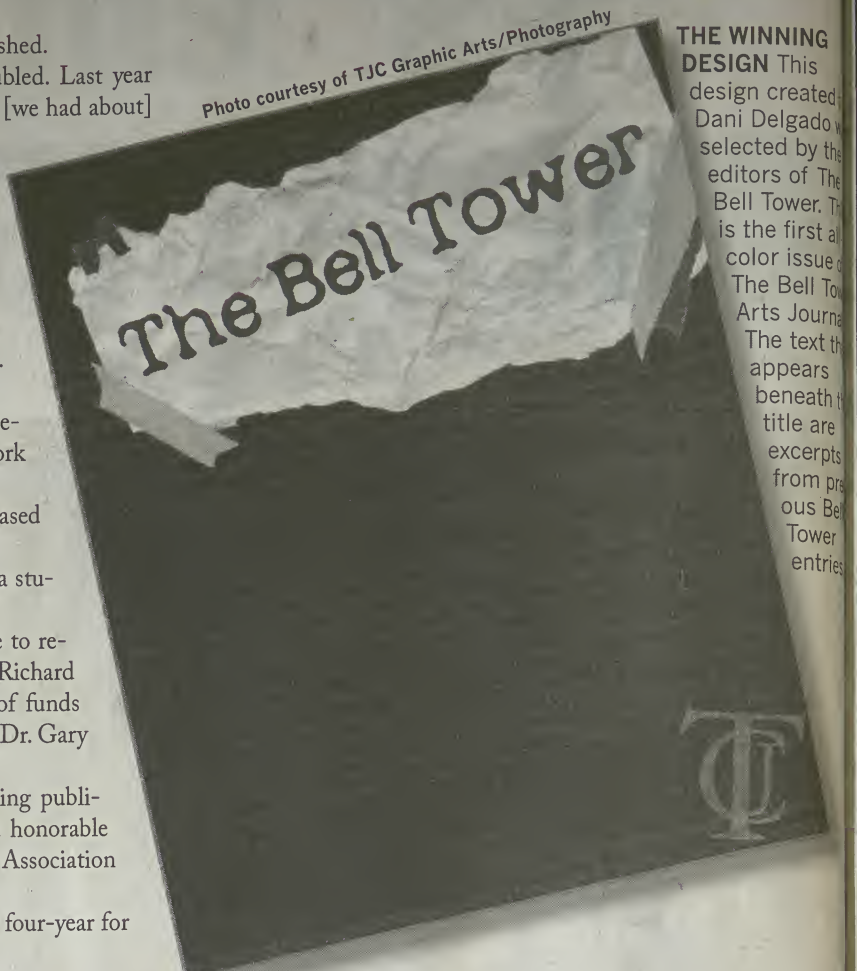
"Everyone whose work who appears is a student," Harrison said.

Last year The Bell Tower was fortunate to receive a budget increase due to the efforts of Richard Minter and Sarah Harrison. This increase of funds has allowed for the color issue in the spring, Dr. Gary said.

The Bell Tower is also an award-winning publication. Last year it won several awards and honorable mentions at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association awards, or TIPA.

"For a two-year college to win against a four-year for anything, it's something," Dr. Gary said.

Photo courtesy of TJC Graphic Arts/Photography



THE WINNING DESIGN This design created Dani Delgado, selected by the editors of The Bell Tower. This is the first all color issue of The Bell Tower Arts Journal. The text that appears beneath the title are excerpts from previous Bell Tower entries.

Freshman Belles recall memories as they prepare for final performance

By Travis Plaisance
Staff Writer

The Apache Belle freshmen have endured 12-hour days, traditions that had them going to class with their hair in a ponytail on top of their head and wearing red lipstick, and long, grueling practices during their first semester at Tyler Junior College.

"I knew it was going to be hard work," freshman Belle Natalie Vance said. "Some of us didn't realize how hard it would be."

Apache Belle Camp opened on Aug. 10 as the girls moved into their new home on the fourth floor of the Ornelas Residential Complex. A normal day at Belle camp started around 8 a.m. with morning dance practice and finished around 8 p.m. with breaks for lunch and dinner. The freshmen were not ready for the long days.

"Camp was hard and we were sore," Vance said. "A lot of us were very sore."

In addition to grueling 12-hour days, this was the first time some of the freshmen were living away from their families.

"You can't go home, you can't call your mom and tell her you want to come home," freshman Belle Emma Schaaf said. "You're in college now."

Long days of working together and being away from home has also helped this class of freshmen to bond and come together as a team.

"All the freshmen are getting to know each other. We're living together for the first time. Everyone is going through it together," freshman Belle Kelly Poole said. "Camp is where all of us really bonded."

The start of the semester brought with it the start of football season. The freshmen got

to put on the black and gold uniform of the Apache Belles for first time on Aug. 30 at Eagle Stadium in Lindale, Texas. Along with the nerves and excitement, they felt a sense of accomplishment.

"When you're sitting in the stands and people are taking pictures of you because you're a Belle and then getting to perform [at half-time], it made everything we went through worth it," Schaaf said.

Although technically the first game of the football season was a home game, the freshmen did not get to march onto the field at Trinity Mother Frances Tyler Rose Stadium until Sept. 27. It was the first time they got to perform the 'RIM', the traditional entrance march for the Apache Belles before football games.

"The 'RIM' is another tradition we got to be a part of," Schaaf said. "We were connecting on another level with our sophomores."

The end of the football season brought about the end of halftime performances and made way for the fast approaching end of the semester.

"It's sad because it's almost over," Schaaf said. "Freshman year is the learning process, everything's a surprise."

On Dec. 14 the fall semester at TJC will have ended and the TJC football season will have been long over, but the world-famous Apache Belles will have one more football game performance.

The final halftime performance for this class of freshmen will take place at Texas Stadium in Irving. They will perform during the Dallas Cowboys game against the New York Giants.

"I grew up in Plano and have always been a Cowboys fan," Poole said. "I'm com-



Photo by Danielle Fr...

"It's sad because it's almost over. Freshman year is the learning process; everything's a surprise."

— Emma Schaaf
Freshman Apache Belle

pletely excited. I was blown away when [Christy Evans] told us."

With Texas Stadium closing its doors at the end of this football season to make way for the new stadium in Arlington, this will be the final group of freshmen to perform there.

"It's exciting. We're making history," Schaaf said.

Now that the first semester is coming to a close, the freshmen start to look toward their

final semester before they become sophomores. Spring semester is more about traditional dance for the Apache Belles and culminates with the annual Spring Show.

The last thing that the freshmen will experience is their banquet at the end of spring semester.

"It's the last thing we do with the sophomores," Vance said. "It will bring back memories from the whole semester."

LOST

continued from page 9

portrayed by Harold Perrineau, Jin Kwon, portrayed by Daniel Dae Kim, and finally – four years in the future – John Locke, portrayed by Terry O'Quinn.

While Perrineau confirmed to TV Guide that his character is dead, Dae Kim and O'Quinn are listed as part of the cast of Season Five and writers have supported their return.

Speaking of back-from-the-dead characters, at Comic Con last July, Lindelof and Cuse promised that fans will finally see the back-story of Rousseau (the "French woman" who was marooned on the Island for 16 years before she was killed last season), although they hint that it might not come in the form of a flashback.

"To use the word 'flashback' [at this point] might be disingenuous," Lindelof said during the Q&A panel. Cuse added that the show would still contain flashbacks and flash-forwards, but writers would also try a new approach as well.

This "new" approach might also explain how actress Michelle Rodriguez, whose character Ana-Lucia was killed off in Season Two, is signed on to guest-star in the upcoming season. In October, Reiko Aylesworth, formerly of "24," was cast as a new character that is rumored to be featured as an em-

ployee of the Dharma Initiative, the mysterious group behind the "hatches" and strange experiments in the 1980s to discover why the Island was "special." With this bit of information, fans may finally see what happened to the Dharma group, including their clash with the Island's still unknown "original inhabitants."

In the final flash-forward that reveals the future demise of Locke, Jack tells Ben that Locke tried to warn him that he had to return to the Island, explaining why the audience has seen Jack has been riding weekly on planes in drunken dazes, hoping to crash. Ben explains cryptically (how else?) that "the Island won't let [Jack] come alone." The next season will involve trying to round up the remaining island escapees, most of them disgusted with Jack, and returning to the Island. Previews that have been released in the last month with the tagline of "destiny calls" support this idea.

Whatever unfolds in the final two seasons, the show creators promise that the end will be a definitive one with all relevant questions answered and no question mark attached. With a three-hour premiere scheduled on Jan. 21, fans will finally witness the beginning of the end of a cultural phenomenon.

Sources: variety.com, ign.com, tvguide.com, ew.com

GAMES

continued from page 9

for its popular World of Warcraft online game, sold more than 2.8 million copies in the first 24 hours after it was released on Nov. 13.

Blizzard said the sales avalanche made Lich King the fastest-selling PC game of all time.

Microsoft Corp. has also done blockbuster business in the last few weeks.

The shooting game Gears of War 2 for Microsoft's Xbox 360 console went on sale on Friday, Nov. 7, and sold more than 2 million copies over the weekend.

Generally, any game that sells more than 1 million copies is considered a big success.

And almost anything sold by Nintendo Co. remains a hot commodity, especially the new Wii Fit exercise game for the Wii console, with GameStop and other retailers reporting essentially instant sellouts as copies hit shelves.

That's not to say the game industry is ignoring the trends in other industries.

"We have some concerns about the short term," DeMatteo said, noting that GameStop has frozen hiring at its corporate offices. "We're watching expenses as anybody would prudently do."

Arvind Bhatia, a game industry analyst in Dallas with Sterne Agee, said it's unrealistic to assume that games will be completely unscathed

"I think we're going to see relative outperformance, but I don't think the industry is immune. To think there will be zero impact is not right, in my opinion."

— Arvind Bhatia
Game industry analyst, Sterne Agee

by the broader economy.

"I think we're going to see relative outperformance (compared with the rest of the economy), but I don't think the industry is immune," he said. "To think there will be zero impact is not right, in my opinion."

GameStop did lower slightly its projected earnings for the fourth quarter when it released the third-quarter numbers and said it will open fewer stores next year, after opening more than 600 in 2008.

Electronic Arts Inc., one of the largest game publishers, reported a second-quarter loss of \$310 million last month, much worse than the \$195 million loss in the same period a year earlier.

Even so, EA did increase its sales to \$894 million in the quarter from \$640 million.

GameStop's DeMatteo said industry sales are forecast to grow 10 percent to 15 percent next year.

That's a best-case scenario, he conceded.

Some analysts think GameStop is much too conservative in its outlook.

"The company's total sales growth guidance is pessimistic to the point of being ridiculous," Wedbush Morgan analyst Michael Pachter wrote in a report Nov. 21.

Pachter said he expects holiday software sales to be "robust" and that GameStop probably is equally confident internally.

"We believe that management is intent upon setting expectations that it can easily beat, and expect GameStop to do so."

Regardless of the specific numbers, DeMatteo is clearly bullish about the business.

"I think we're being prudent and cautious given the environment we're in," he said. "But strategically, in the range, do we believe videogames are a robust, growing industry? Absolutely. How could you come to any different conclusion?"

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Twenty players voted to make All-Conference Team

By Michael George
Sports Editor

After coming up short to reach the playoffs, the Tyler Junior College Apache football team is going back to the drawing board at get ready for Spring Training. But not all Apaches went empty-handed for the season.

There were a handful of players who made the All-Conference team.

To make the All-Conference team, the coaches go by how well the players perform in each game they play.

Other coaches from other teams votes on the players that were nominated from their own coach by position.

If a player gets at least one vote from another coach, than they will automatically make Honorable Mention, but a coach cannot vote for his own players.

There were 20 players that made the All-Conference team. Aaron Muhammad TE, Teric Williams WR/RS, Ryan Taylor OL, Stephen Schwark QB, Ira Duckworth RB, Don Brown RB, Ronny Green DL, Garrett Roget LB, Richard Lyles DB, James Spady DB, JaColby



Photo courtesy of Charles Smith

TJC RUNNING BACK O'BRYAN BELL made second team All-Conference.

Reed DB, Chris Nalley RS, John Flanagan DS, and Jamaal Johnson WR all made Honorable Mention. Phillip Blake OL, Fonda White OL, Chris Brunson C, O'Bryan Bell RB, and Donald Moore DL, all made second team. Calvin Rubles is the only player to make first team.

"We are proud of all our athletes to be

honest," Assistant Coach Ryan Mahon said. "We have a good representation on the All-Conference team. Obviously the more you got out on the All-Conference team, the better you think you did in the conference. They are all good guys, and they deserved what they get for doing such an excellent job this season."

By making the All-Conference team, player increases his chances of being recruited to a Division I school.

"We have about six players that are going to Division I schools," Head Coach Dan Palmer said. "I'm disappointed how many made the team and where they got voted on the All-Conference team because there should have been more."

"We have players like Ira Duckworth who actually should have made the 1st team because he was Conference Player of the Week twice," Palmer said.

John Flanagan is one of the players who made the All-Conference team.

"It feels pretty good to make Honorable Mention. At first I didn't know I made the team, and I feel that it is a good chance to get my name out there and get noticed by Division I school," Flanagan said.

"If you make All-Conference in this league, you are a pretty good football player," Palmer said. "We have a lot of freshman to make the team, so I'm looking forward to next season because we have a lot of good players coming back to make this football team better."



Photo courtesy of Charles Smith

TEAM SPIRIT Women's soccer team takes a time out.

Women soccer team gives to community

By Matt Sneed
Staff Writer

The TJC Women's soccer season came to an end on the eighth penalty kick, but the work has not stopped there for the lady Apaches. Every Tuesday night five or six of the girls get involved with a youth soccer club that is regarded as one of the best in the nation.

"Getting involved in the community is important," Corey Rose, Head Women's Soccer Coach, said.

The Apaches enjoy playing soccer with what some would call "little sisters." The soccer club that the Apaches help with is called the Sting. The Sting is the oldest soccer club in the nation and has produced more Division I student athletes than any other club. They are coached by UT-Tyler head coach Stephanie Webb.

The Lady Apaches first became aware of this service opportunity when Rose first moved to Tyler. Rose and his daughter wanted to be part of an elite soccer program. Rose had heard about a few soccer clubs in the area, but didn't know exactly which would be the best fit for his daughter. After talking with friends and other coaches in the area, together Rose and his daughter agreed on the Sting. The Sting has teams of all ages and practices every Tuesday and Friday night.

The TJC women's team is also joined by the UT-Tyler girls, combined they provide instruction that they coaches

cannot provide. They are more than coaches they are "big sisters."

"I really enjoy having the college girls help us. They are like big sisters," said Allison Wood, a member of the Sting.

"Having the Tyler Women's team has really been a big help to the Sting girls. When you have two college teams (TJC and UT-TYLER) you are able to really show the girls what it takes to become a college athlete. [Tyler women] help with instruction drills as well as talking to the younger girls about nutrition and eating right as well as academics," said Head Sting and UT-TYLER Women's Coach. "Even when you are talking to girls that are 8 years old, you need

to share the importance of getting better in the classroom."

Webb asked for five girls a week and Rose normally rotates the

girls, but said "some girls like going every week."

"Being able to help out younger girls is a really neat thing and it's a lot of fun getting to know the [TJC] girls," said current UT-TYLER goalkeeper Lauren Huffman.

Serving the Sting is not only good for the Sting, it's also good for the Apaches.

They have learned what it takes to be role models. The players of the Sting look up to these girls and often try to imitate them, said Webb.

"Playing soccer with other girls and showing them how I learned is fun. I know we are looked up to, and I like that," said current UT-Tyler player Lauren Thomas.

Top high school tennis player passes up Division I school to improve game

By Luke Loggins
Staff Writer

Apache freshman tennis player Nathan Robinson has a story and a high school career that is abnormal to most.

Born and raised in Abilene, Nathan Robinson grew up playing all kinds of sports such as basketball, soccer, baseball, golf and tennis.

At the age of six, Nathan started playing tennis. It wasn't until his freshman year in high school at Abilene Cooper that he decided tennis was what he wanted to focus on.

"I made the decision to play tennis. It is what I wanted to pursue," Robinson said.

After playing three years at Abilene Cooper, Robinson made the tough decision to leave school before his senior year and do home schooling. Robinson moved to Dallas to practice and study with his tennis coach, Theron Cole, who played tennis at TJC.

"My parents have always stuck beside me when I chose to move away and home school," Robinson said.

While being home schooled and practicing with his tennis coach, he traveled around the state and nation playing in the most competitive amateur tournaments in the country.

"One of my biggest wins was over a player who was num-



Nathan Robinson

ber one in the state and recently signed with the University of Texas," Robinson said.

Robinson also finished fourth at The Texas Grand Slam, arguably the biggest tournament in the state.

With all of his success while traveling and home schooling, Nathan was offered scholarships to D-I schools such as The University of Utah and East Carolina University. He was also offered a scholarship to Abilene Christian College, a D-II school near his home town.

Passing up scholarships to four-year schools was not a problem for Robinson, he knew what was best for him and what he needed to do to improve his game to the next level.

"I chose TJC because I wanted to have a couple of years to improve so I could go to a Division I college ranked higher in the nation," said Robinson.

A player of Robinson's caliber usually is not looking for the Junior College experience, high school standouts that get offered D-I scholarships usually take them.

"Nathan was being recruited (by TJC), but lightly as we don't often get players with his ranking," Tennis Coach John Peterson said. "I was excited to get a Texas guy with that ranking, and I knew his character to also be high, like most freshmen, he is going through the adjustment phase where he has to get used to being challenged every day, but he has adjusted well."

Nathan has adjusted very well to tennis on the college level. He has been a starter since the day he arrived on campus.

After taking a year off from team competition during his home schooling, Robinson got to TJC and fit right in.

"I really enjoy the team atmosphere," Robinson said. "Everyone on the team is rooting for you when you're playing and when you're not playing you're rooting for them."

Peterson has high hopes for his team and Nathan during the spring and next season.

"He is a good team guy and he would be counted on to be our leader next year."

Old tennis center, courts to be renovated

By Shane Smith
Photo Editor

The old tennis center, located next to Pyrtle Technology building has seen many tennis matches in its day and, according to TJC's plans, there will be many more soon to come.

"Well, the center was deteriorating, so we could either fix them up or tear them down, so we're going to fix them up," Dr. Mike Metke, TJC president, said. "We're going to try to spend the least amount of money to make them look the best that we possibly can."

Rumors had spread ideas about parking lots and other projects to replace the old tennis center.

"I thought they were going to be turned into a parking lot," said Mwalimu Phiri, a TJC student as well as member of the TJC tennis team. "I had heard that brought up in class."

"We're resurfacing with newer technology," said TJC Athletic Director Tim Drain. "The courts should be about seven inches taller than they currently are with post tension concrete courts."

"That should prevent most cracking that would happen on regular courts," Drain said. "We'll know a lot more in about two months, but I think the surface of all the courts from both centers should match each other."

From national championships, to being the training grounds for hundreds of players, the old courts have definitely seen a lot.

"My first national championship with the guys was won on those courts in '89 or '90," said Coach John Peterson, head tennis coach for 21 years. "I've had a lot of memories on them, but the fact



Photo by Shane Smith

TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE is looking forward to building a new Tennis facility after having it for more than 20 years.

that the new facility is in the same location makes it not upsetting at all."

At the arrival of Coach Peterson, the courts constituted a very nice small college tennis facility. However, as the years went on, centers from other schools slowly began to degrade the facilities.

The first half of TJC's tennis facility was constructed in the '60s, and the other during the Fred Kniffen coaching era. Coach Kniffen was the varsity tennis coach of Tyler Junior College at that time and also began the tennis tech program.

Prior to the hiring of John Peterson in 1987 as head tennis coach, the courts actually hosted the national tournament for both men's and women's events.

The courts also draw a very large recreational crowd. The center has host-

ed dozens of USTA, United States Tennis Association, events and tournaments over the years.

"We want to try to bring National events to our center," Metke said. "With the new tennis facilities, we can hopefully host some larger USTA tournaments."

The construction of tennis courts is usually a somewhat timely process to complete. From laying the concrete to the way to the fencing, the process usually takes several months to complete the total process.

The renovation of the tennis center is currently in the process of going out for bids. However, prior to this process the construction should begin. The opening of the new courts could come as early as late spring.

One loss Red Raiders to possibly be left out of BCS bowls

By Kevin Sherrington
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS - If you're asking for the best team in the Big 12 right now, the answer is Oklahoma.

If you're asking for the best team in the country, it's Florida.

And if you're asking who got screwed by the BCS, it's every college football fan.

Of course, those are just my opinions. Fortunately, they only count toward my paycheck.

Other observers formulate similar opinions with millions riding on them, and they're hardly worth the difference.

Once again, here's the problem with the BCS: The idea was to give college football's highest level a national title game without actually conducting any playoffs, thus preserving the lucrative bowl system and mollifying the indolent masses. But out-of-touch administrators sorely underestimated their subjects.

By pretending this format was just as good as the playoffs already conducted at every other level of college football, they only inflamed detractors all the more with the perpetration of a fraud.

College football fans, who carry grudges like some families pass on heirlooms, love a good debate. But they don't like opinions foisted on them in the guise of science.

Translation: Don't pretend the BCS process eliminates human error, no matter what Bob Stoops says.

After Oklahoma jumped Texas on Sunday in the BCS rankings, the Sooners' coach proclaimed his sudden admiration for the computer part of the formula, saying, "They don't have agendas, they don't have loyalties, they don't have opinions, they don't have all the bias that everyone else does."

Maybe that'd be true if you could train computers to watch film and grade players and quantify the difference between a Southeastern Conference cornerback and one from the Pacific 10.

But computers can't do that just yet. Unless you count Nick Saban, who appears human.

Even HAL from 2001 had to be programmed, and that's one of the problems with putting too much stock in computers.

Here's some not-so-secret information: Computers do have biases, and they're not even concealed.

Richard Billingsley, who programmed a computer used in the formula, gives more points for November wins than October wins, a method grounded in generations of voting by AP and UPI voters.

But historical precedence doesn't make it right. You can rightly question the quality of Texas' non conference opponents. But what's Mack Brown to do about the timing of his conference schedule? Should he be penalized for the toughest part coming at mid season, when Billingsley's formula awards him fewer points, than Stoops gets for similar wins in November?

Better question: Whatever happened to the concept that games should be decided on fields of play?

If the Sooners and Texas were to play Saturday, I think Oklahoma would win. DeMarco Murray's return to full speed gives Oklahoma an option it didn't have in the Cotton Bowl.

But, once again, that's just an opinion. Murray was 100 percent against Oklahoma State, and how much difference did he make in a 61-41 Sooner win? Seventy-three yards and a touchdown. Without Murray, Oklahoma might have won by a couple of touchdowns instead of

three.

Even against a Sooners team with a healthy Murray, Will Muschamp might find a way to slow Oklahoma's offense that no one else has since, well, since Texas beat the Sooners, 45-35.

Bottom line: The Longhorns and Sooners made their cases on a neutral field, and the results of any such contest speak louder than the ruckus generated by voters and computers and sports columnists.

The beauty of college football is that you never know what you might get on any given Saturday. Dynamics change from game to game and rivalry to rivalry. I've never seen a team play harder than Texas Tech did in the first half against Texas. The Red Raiders couldn't duplicate that effort on the road against Oklahoma, and the margin by which they lost cost them the right to an argument now.

Even without Tech, we still have too many arguments and too little time to solve them.

At least Florida still gets to make its case on a football field, meaning we may yet get the best teams in Miami. But it doesn't mean the system was right. Not if you believe in actual competition over opinion, no matter where it comes from.

Accidental gun shot is no longer laughing matter

By Shannon J. Owens
The Orlando Sentinel

Maybe the joke about the NFL star who accidentally shot himself at a nightclub would be funny another weekend.

But Plaxico Burress picked the wrong time to be the butt of bar-room stories.

"He called me laughing and grinning," Burress' New York Giants teammate Brandon Jacobs told reporters after their 23-7 victory against Washington Sunday.

"He is doing fine. He is feeling good. I called him and made a few jokes about the situation and he laughed, which is what I wanted to hear."

Comedy is all about timing.

And this joke could not have come during a more inappropriate moment.

Plaxico shot himself just a day after the one-year anniversary of Sean Taylor's death. The bullet hit him inches away from the same spot his right thigh that killed Sean.

By a strange twist of fate, it happened on the same weekend the Giants and Washington Redskins were set to play.

Of course, neither Sean nor Plaxico were on the field Sunday. But for very different reasons.

Taylor died protecting his family from a home invasion.

Burress, who was already sidelined for the game by injury, shot himself jamming to Lil' Wayne songs at a club.

I realize Burress probably wasn't thinking about the deeper meaning of this weekend when the bullet struck. But if he had any compassion, it would have crossed his mind at some point.

It's more than inappropriate to laugh about such matters. It's disrespectful to all the victims, unlike Burress, who did not get second chances.

Taylor's daughter will never know her father. Rosalind Williams, mother of slain Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams, lost a son. Richard Collier, also the victim of a shooting, lost a leg and will never play football again.

Home invasions, stabbings and shootings are sadly becoming commonplace stories in today's archetype of the tragic sports hero. We live in an increasingly violent world with inexplicable tragedies. So the violence brought on oneself because of ignorant choices is offensive. Not laughable.

Judging by Burress' behavior in the past 10 months, he was bound to end up in handcuffs.

He repeatedly rejected authority by ignoring team and league rules. He has paid fines amounting to the price of a suburban home. His wife had filed for two restraining orders against him that were dismissed by a state court.

He said he missed a team meeting because he had to take his son to school. This would have been a halfway decent excuse if Plaxico didn't have such a lame track record of stupidity.

Think about it this way, he almost ceded \$35 million last weekend in a matter of seconds.

I personally don't have an issue with athletes going to clubs. But if that particular environment calls for you to bring an AK-47, a bodyguard and a militia, then I recommend a quiet night at home. There is no reason to lose your life or cause harm to someone else over an apple martini and a couple dance tracks.

There are few industries that allow a person to generate enough wealth for two generations in a matter of a few years. Why would you not do everything to protect your future?

Burress' days of being an NFL star are certainly numbered. But he has another chance to be a better man. And if pending success or failure in life isn't motivation enough, then think about Sean.

Think about Darrent.

Think about Richard.

Think about all the chances they never got and the one you so fortunately have.

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Photo by Allan Arrick

[variety]



Photo by Jeff Smith

TJC STUDENT SENTATE members pose in the Student Life Center. Members include (front row; left) Maria Cruces, Tara Johnston, Maria Cruces, Taylor Jett, Carole Kiphen, Zarrick Cannon, Justin Yordy, Travis Smith, Aaron Kelter, Matt Sneed.

Student governing body tackles issues

By Christina McDonald
Staff Writer

President-elect Barack Obama is learning what his new job entails, but TJC Student Senate President Taylor Jett already has four months under her belt.

Student Senate is the elected governing body that speaks on behalf of students and communicates issues to the administration.

Jett is unlike a regular full-time student because she goes to class 12 hours per week, works 15 hours per week at her on-campus job and spends more than 20 hours per week fulfilling her Student Senate responsibilities.

"Student Senate teaches life skills that you cannot learn in the classroom," Jett said.

Jett's responsibilities include presiding over meetings, making sure everyone is there, signing paperwork if another club wants to be recognized, chairing Student Services Fee Advisory Committee (SSFAC), and being involved with the Strategic Planning Committee (which is where the board wants TJC to be in 3 years).

They are available if students have any problems at school.

Student Senate also has three chair positions, which make up academic affairs, and they are involved with tuition and getting more resources on campus. Also, academic affairs is trying to get computers in the student center so the students will be able to register for classes, check apache access, and whatever else they need help with for educational purposes.

Next are the student affairs positions who help with parking and getting more parking closer to campus for students. Academic affairs also deals with problems if student want to see a change.

Policy and Procedures is the last committee, and they are involved with the rules and making sure students follow them. They are students that want to see a change in policy.

"All three of these positions work together and make TJC better," Jett said.

"The decisions that the Student Senate make are for the best of student life and students get what they need and not necessarily want,"

Vincent Nguyen, Interim Director of the Center for Student Life and Involvement, said.

There are 36 representatives from different clubs on TJC campus. Around 70-80 people attend meetings, which are held every Tuesday starting at 4 p.m. at the White Administration service building except for the first Tuesday of every month, which are held in the apaches rooms.

"Student Senate offers leadership opportunities and gives me tools to succeed, not only here but beyond Tyler Junior College," said Matt Sneed, TJC Student Senate Spokesperson, said.

Anyone can be involved and help with Student Senate but the officers have to be full-time students.

"The best thing about being involved in Student Senate is free T-shirts, scholarships, life-learning experiences, meeting new people, looks good on resumes, opens a lot of opportunities for transferring, teaches life principles and work on deadline planning," secretary Travis Smith, said.

Student Senate responsibilities include the traditional programming on campus, Welcome Week, Homecoming Week, Exam Breakers, and Spring Fling.

They also tackle governmental issues like recycling on campus, tuition and any issue dealing with education on campus.

"Students should get involved because it makes life in college more fun. They will learn life skills and be able to interact with other peers," Nguyen said.

The officers of Student Senate include: President Taylor Jett; Vice President Maria G. Cruces; Secretary Travis Smith; Sophomore Vice President Carole Kiphen; Freshmen President Justin Yordy; Freshmen Vice President Maria T. Cruces; Freshmen Secretary Tara Johnston; Spokesperson Matt Sneed; Sergeants of Arms Aaron Kelter and Zarrick Cannon.

"It's difficult juggling Student Senate responsibilities and school work. You really have to want to be a part of something and do well in school," Jett said.

Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Graduating group
6 Gear tooth
9 Vaporized water
14 Marx brother
15 Set down
16 The Velvet Fog
17 "The Jetsons" dog
18 Org. of Federer and Roddick
19 One of the archangels
20 Movie house
22 Sorrow
24 Bangkok man
25 Caps ending?
26 Whopper
29 Sea eagle
30 Sacred words
35 Approved openly
38 Stepped lively
39 Ova
40 Chinese religion
42 Great landmass
43 Furry marsupials
46 Desert stinger
49 Flashing lights
51 Stage prompt
52 Superman's letter
53 "Norma"
54 Urgent letters?
56 Part of EDT
60 Kissimmee's neighbor
64 Hi, on HI
65 Star Wars, initially
67 "Siddhartha" writer
68 Commotions
69 John's Yoko
70 Facilitates
71 Begin
72 Flowed
73 Naked or raving mad?

- DOWN
1 Chew the fat
2 Bind with cord
3 Comic Johnson
4 Fat avoider of rhyme
5 Comforter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15			16			
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68						69			70			
71						72			73			

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12/6/08

Solutions

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M	E		R	O	L	A	V	L		O	P	H
M	A	E	I	S		G	O	C		S	S	V

- 48 Arrives at
50 Detection device
55 Pants fold
56 Digs in
57 Scads
58 Whiskey spritz
59 God with a hammer
61 Greek peak
62 Addict
63 Cubicle feature
66 Genetic fingerprints

Web site offers new study options for students

By Sarah Goulden
Ad Director

Every day, students make the decision: three hours on Facebook or three hours studying for that exam. For those students who choose Facebook or Myspace, a new Web site offers an alternative to Cliffsnotes that provides the resources for quick study sessions.

Nov. 11 marked the official launch for the website Shmoop.com, a free online homework and writing helper for students. Designed with college students in mind, Shmoop.com covers over 180 topics in literature, poetry, American history and is still growing.

President and CEO of Shmoop.com, Ellen Siminoff, said the Web site was two years in the making and was first thought up when her husband was reading a book to their daughter. Siminoff said that she and her husband wanted a way to encourage their child to read and be excited about it, too. After researching sites on the Internet, the Siminoffs didn't find any Web sites like the kind they had in mind.

"There wasn't anything that was relevant, exciting, that wasn't trying to sell you books," Siminoff said.

The premise behind the Web site is to give students a site in which thinking and having different points of view is promoted. Instead of giving students the answers, Shmoop.com presents information in such a way that students must use their own knowledge to further their studying. Siminoff said Shmoop.com gives information that is written in a "referenced" and "relatable" way, but is also "fun and relative in the digital age."

Siminoff said she finds one of the hardest things to do in life is to just write a good paper. Therefore, Shmoop.com provides a writing helper for students who are writing essays. The

writing tool helps students organize their thoughts and outline their work.

"The 'bully on the schoolyard' is a blank sheet of paper," Siminoff said.

Siminoff said the Web site was set up with all of the different levels of students' interests taken into consideration.

Shmoop.com is still evolving as a Web site, and Siminoff said they want to continue to expand their subjects and material.

If a student wants to heavily research a specific era in the U.S. or famous piece of literature, they can browse through such study topics as plot analysis, themes, or timeline of events.

The site offers citations and links to other web sources, also, to further enhance the student's knowledge on a subject.

For students who wake up one morning and realize they've forgotten the exam they have in four hours that they haven't studied for, Shmoop.com offers a "cram sheet" that contains important dates, topics, and people for various subjects.

Scotty Yates, sophomore at Tyler Junior College said the concept of Shmoop.com seemed accessible. He can use the web site to get what he needs to accomplish when he needs to versus meeting with a study group or tutor. As well as being a full-time student, Yates also works part time. As a busy student, Yates said he uses the internet a lot to help with getting sources of information.

TJC student, Ryan Fowler agreed with Yates. Fowler is the Vice President of the student organization F.Y.E. which he said keeps him "really" busy. Fowler said he would use Shmoop.com if it provided more facts and information for an assignment. Furthermore, he said he thinks that if there is a site with information to help students write papers or study for exams, students should use the site to their advantage.

"If it helps me, why not use it? Obviously that's what it's there for, to help me out," Fowler said.

Another TJC Student, Natalie Garrett, is also a busy student. With a 22-hour course load as well as a job in the Student Life Office at TJC, Garrett said, "I need all the help I can get. She went on to say that she employs a number of different study methods, and she would definitely add Shmoop.com to her list.

Although some students agree that Shmoop.com is beneficial to their studying habits, instructors and professors said they still consider the Web site to be just another way for students to get out of doing the work on their own.

"Nothing can take the place of reading and thinking for yourself," Instructor of Literature and Humanities, Linda Gary said. "When you engage in a conversation with a writer through the vehicle of a literary work, you discover for yourself the ideas contained within a work."

Gary said the whole point of a student reading a piece of literature without the use of study guides is that the students develop critical thinking skills. Gary said that she is skeptical of sites that offer aid to students because students usually end up getting the wrong information. Also, strictly using study guides takes away from student-to-student discussions.

The majority of the current information on the website was written by Ph.D. and M.A. students from well-known universities in the U.S. Although the information on the Web site is written by people who have seemingly mastered their craft, the website is always open to feedback from users.

"One of the best things you can do is say 'I disagree,'" Siminoff said.

For more information or to offer feedback, visit Shmoop.com. Siminoff also welcomes student feedback via email at Ellen@Shmoop.com.

2008 GRADUATES

The Apache Pow Wow would like to congratulate the Fall 2008 graduating class of Tyler Junior College. The registrar's office compiled the following list of graduates featured on the next two pages.

Kassim Abdulla, Longview
Kara Adams, Tyler
Erin Adkins, Whitehouse
Jessenia Aguilar, Tyler
Carla Alexander, Whitehouse
Alyssa Allegretto, Lindale
Lucas Anderson, DeKalb
Oscar Arevalo, Tyler
Roseline Arihi, Tyler
Garrett Armstrong, Tyler
Whitney Armus, Van
Linda Arroyo, Tyler
Deysi Arroyo, Tyler
Ezequiel Arroyo, Tyler
Jessica Ashcraft, Troup
Alyshia Babers, Lancaster
Misty Baggett, Tyler
John Bane, Tyler
Jonathan Barlow, Jasper
Glenda Barr, Tyler
Anna Bass, Lindale
Tina Bausinger, Tyler
Haley Beard, Frankston
Kelli Beckley, Mineola
Shana Bennett, Rusk
Scott Beu, Whitehouse
Monica Birt, Whitehouse
Shannon Blackshire, Tyler
Ashley Blevins, Wills Point
Britney Bongard, Golden
Jeff Bouse, Lindale
Tonya Boykin, Jacksonville
Manuel Bravo, Tyler
Michael Brehm, Lindale
Joshua Britton, Whitehouse
James Broome, Tyler
Jennifer Browning, Mineola
Natalie Bruce, Frankston
Bolorchimeg Budgaa, Whitehouse
Lindsey Butler, Tyler
Steven Byrd, Whitehouse
Casey Calhoun, Laneville
AnnMarie Cannon, Sherman
Tiffany Cannon, Tyler
Heather Carmichael, Aubrey
Judy Carpenter, Tyler
Carla Carpenter, Longview
Shana Carter, Grande Saline
Felicia Cartwright, Elkhart
Stephanie Cassel, Lindale
Courtney Castle, Whitehouse
Derek Causey, Sam Rayburn
Jonathan Chapman, Tyler
Alexander Chester, Overton
Tiffany Clanton, Tyler
Kelly Clark, Oklahoma City

Kendra Coburn, Athens
Kyle Coe, Tyler
Catherine Collett, Mineola
Connie Collins, Whitehouse
April Combs, Lindale
Jamie Cook, Lindale
Christy Cooper, Whitehouse
Christy Copeland, Tyler
Gabriel Correa, Arp
William Cox, Whitehouse
Jimmy Cox Jr, Henderson
Dorothy Crawford, Jacksonville
Pamela Credit, Lufkin
Ken Crockett, Tyler
Melissa Croley, Gilmer
Maria Cruces, Tyler
Kari Cruz, Tyler
Rodney Curry, Jacksonville
Mable Daniels, Gilmer
Amanda DeMoss, Tyler
Crystal Derryberry, Tyler
Maribel Diaz, Tyler
Jared Dickson, Tyler
Benjamin Dieter, Whitehouse
Allan Dike Jr, Ben Wheeler
Nathan Diller, Ben Wheeler
Shatawn Domena, Tyler
John Dora, Nacogdoches
Dusty Duncan, Marshall
Megan Dunn, Lindale
Edward Dushmanack, Tyler
Audra Ellis, Tyler
Leslee Ellis, Tyler
Erin Ellis, Arp
Sheri Elmore, Brownsboro
Carletta English, Chandler
Kyle Etheridge, Jacksonville
Higinio Fernandez, Tyler
Brandon Flanagan, Marshall
Stacy Fleming, Tyler
David Flemons, Tyler
Sarah Friday, Tyler
Whitney Galbraith, Tyler
Gabino Galvan, Jacksonville
Cema Gates, Bullard
Tami Gaut, Lindale
Astrid Genrty, Troup
Micheal George, Longview
Todd Gifford, Irving
Elizabeth Gilliam, Tyler
Jessica Gonzales, Frankston
Sarah Goodwin, Frankston
Rachel Goodwin, Tyler
Alexcia Gorman, Lindale
Ronald Gorman, Lindale
Jessie Green, Mt. Pleasant
Vianca Green, Tyler

Michael Griffis, Marshall
Jenna Grissom, Overton
Aristeo Gutierrez, Tyler
Lyndsey Hailey, Quitman
Sharon Hale, Tyler
Heath Hand, Van
Patsy Handy, Tyler
Emily Hanks, Tyler
Ashley Hanson, Tyler
Jeb Hardi, Rockwell
Mark Hardin, Tyler
Mark Harp, Plano
Ricky Haskins, Texarkana
Jason Hatch, Lufkin
Charles Henderson, Quitman
Jamie Hendry, Tyler
James Hennessee, Palestine
Christopher Herod, Tyler
Samantha Herrin, Frankston
William Hibbard III, Tyler
Tristan High, Missouri City
Chasity Hill, Carthage
Amanda Hillard, Tyler
J. Blake Hobbs, Whitehouse
Cody Hoffman, The Colony
Lauren Hollis, Tyler
Jeremy Holmes, Flint
Trevor Howard, Tyler
Rachel Huff, Tyler
Leila Humphreys, Athens
Jonathan Hvezdos, Tyler
Ashley Irvin, Marsden, Australia
Amy Isbell, Tyler
Steven Ison, Gilmer
Cassandra Israel, Garland
Ekaete Iwot, Arlington
Everett Jennings, Tyler
Ta'Juana Jiles, Troup
Ronald John, Carrollton
Caleb Johnson, Lindale
Jessica Johnson, Frankston
Kristie Johnson, Tyler
Margaret Johnson, Tyler
Melinda Johnson, Troup
James Johnston II, Big Sandy
Kristopher Jones, DeKalb
Robert Jones, Winona
Shelby Jones, Mexia
Tara Jones, Arp
Sandra Jones, Tyler
Martin Jones, Mesquite
Jessica Jones, Big Sandy
Hannah Jones, Tyler Ben
Meagan Jones, Thornton
Cody Jordan, Tawakoni
Brandy Jordan, Tyler
Bethany Kastmo, Tyler

Aaron Katchmarik, Tyler
Anas Kebir, Tyler
Jessika Keith, Hawkins
Dawn Kennedy, Tyler
Emily Kennedy, Tyler
Kevin Kenney, Lexington, Ky.
Malik Khan, Tyler
Tayyaba Khan, Tyler
Crystal King, Tyler
Valarie Kirby, Grand Saline
Shenice Kirk, Mineola
Jennifer Kirkpatrick, Tyler
Jami Knighton, Tyler
Matthew Koop, Tyler
Thomas Krugler, Flint
Stephanie Kurland, Tyler
Koa Kurzenhauser, Van
Natalie Kushner, Tyler
Monir Kutob, Troup
Lisa LaFrance, Winona
J. Scott Lamon, Tyler
William Larrew, Tyler
Jacqueline Lee, Carrollton
Mary Lenderman, Tyler
Alfredie Leonard, Whitehouse
Samantha Lewellen, Ben Wheeler
Frances Lewis, Flint
Gary Lewis, Tyler
Jason Litchfield, Tyler
Britt Lofton, Tyler
Jared Lovett, Grand Saline
Luis Lucena, Tyler
Christopher Lynch, Tyler
James Magness, Tyler
Christie Makinson, Tyler
Justin Malone, Tyler
Rindi Malone, Lindale
Tauquilla Manning, Tyler
Jonathan Marchbanks, Flint
Amber Marshall, Grand Saline
Shaun Marshall, Bradstown, Ky.
Delilah Martin, Grand Saline
Ryan Maxfield, Grand Saline
Kathy Mayfield, Tyler
Matthew Maynes, Tyler
Naomi Mays, Columbus
Gatlin McAdoo, Lindale
Allison McAuliffe, Ben Wheeler
Jonathan McClish, Tyler
Erin McCormick, Tyler
Hynnifah McCullough, Huntsville
Kim McCurley, Tyler
Erin McDonald, Troup
Galina McElvain, Tyler
Josh McGuire, Gladewater
Andrew McKinney, Tyler

campus SCENE

New Computer Lab



Photo by Matt Sneed

THE VERC LAB located on the second floor of the Vaughn Library recently reopened after renovations during the fall semester.

TJC Holiday Tradition



Photo by Shane Smith

LIGHTING OF THE WREATHS The lights were turned on Dec. 2 during the annual Lighting of the Wreaths outside Jenkins Hall. The annual ceremony featured caroling by faculty and staff.

campusSCENE

Fire Station 7 Gets New Home



Photo by Matt Sneed

OPENING DAY Tyler Fire Department's Station 7 officially opened its new firehouse Dec. 2 at the intersection of Troup Highway and Donnybrook Avenue.

Fire officials gave tours of the new facility and fire trucks.

The fire station serves Tyler Junior College and the surrounding area.

Julie McLain, Chandler
Jamie Merritt, Whitehouse
Mavis Miller, Tyler
Allen Mims Jr, Daingerfield
Erick Molina, Lindale
Jennifer Moore, Arp
Shannon Moosberg, Ben Wheeler
Justin Morales, Tyler
Hannah Morgan, Emory
Tyler Morris, Tyler
Amber Morris, Hamden, Conn.
Perry Myers Jr, Tyler
Jose Navá, Jacksonville
Heath Neal, Tyler
Jared Neeley, Bullard
Erin Nelson, Flint
Jonathan Nelte, Lindale
Audra Newell, Brownsboro
Jason Norton, Tyler
Cameron Nunnally, Tyler
Grisel Olalde, Brownsboro
Kamisha Opstedal, Tyler
Alison Ortmann, Aspen, Colo.
Ruth Palma, Tyler
Shari Parks, Tyler
Christian Parks, Tyler
Zachary Parrish, Tyler
Jacob Pautsky, Tyler
Juarez Perkins, Grand Prairie
Ashlee Persing, Tyler
Bethany Peters, Tyler
Tommie Pike, Jacksonville
Tyson Plagens, Tyler
Jennifer Ploch, Fairfield
Matthew Potter, Bullard
Amanda Powers, White Oak

Homer Pruitt, Tyler
Andrew Ragle, Canton
Lupita Ramirez, Tyler
Luke Range, Lindale
Miriam Rascon, Tyler
Debra Redmon, Lindale
Justin Reed, Golden
Kimberly Reeves, Lindale
Brian Reno, Jacksonville
Monica Reyes, New Summerfield
Jessica Richter, Tyler
MariAnne Roach, Ben Wheeler
Clay Roberts, Golden
Dreamie Roberts, Tyler
David Robertson, Whitehouse
Tanya Robertson, Tyler
Tony Robinson, Tyler
Allison Robinson, Buffalo
Amber Robinson, Lone Star
Kinsley Robinson, Whitehouse
Carie Roland, Mesquite
Ceron Rolle, Nassau, Bahamas
LV Rowell, Tyler
Calvin Rubles, Dallas
Martin Russell, Frankston
Tommy Saenz, Frisco
Lisa Sampson, Gladewater
Erica Sanchez, Tyler
Tara Sasin, Whitehouse
Juanita Satler, Tyler
Laura Saunders, Tyler
Lindsey Savage, Grand Saline
Stephen Schwark, Mesquite
Rachel Scott, Tyler
Marty Scott, Prosper
Brian Scott, Tyler

Clarissa Selleroli, Lindale
Jade Sexton, Jacksonville
John Sheeran, Mineola
Beau Sheffield, Athens
Michelle Shelton, Lindale
Roderick Shepard II, Arlington
Justin Shipp, Winona
Jeremy Simmons, Henderson
Kerby Sitton, Tyler
Brittany Skvortsov, Canton
William Smallwood, Canton
Jason Smith, Tyler
Keri Smith, Tyler
Shane Smith, Athens
Raegan Smith, Tyler
Lauren Smith, Tyler
Rachel Smith, Athens
Monica Soria, Tyler
Rachel Spraggins, Kilgore
Lacie Spruell, White Oak
Joc Stafford, Hawkins
Jessica Stanley, Rusk
Meagan Stanley, Mineola
Sarah Steel, Ben Wheeler
Misty Stevenson, Ben Wheeler
Tiffany Stewart, Whitehouse
Joshua Stidham, Tyler
Maranda Stoker, Tyler
Ami Sustaire, Tyler
Elizabeth Svoboda, Arp
Christina Swallows, Tyler
Lonnitra Sweat, Kilgore
Lisa Swierk, Mineola
Jessica Swink, Tyler
Jesse Tarango, Tyler
Jeremy Tatum, Tyler
Jessica Taylor, Tyler

Ryan Taylor, Denison
Lacey Taylor, Longview
Melissa Taylor, Tyler
Contessa Tejeda, Grand Saline
Cory Thatcher, Flint
Jackie Thomas, Hawkins
Jaclyn Thomas, Big Sandy
Amanda Thomas, Hallsville
Beryl Thompson, Maydelle
Jamie Tilley, Tyler
Amber Timmons, Pearland
Paul Todd, Bullard
Sadamoudou Traore, Tyler
Adam Travis, Chandler
Todd Turner, Arp
Shirrayna Turner, Tyler
Brooke Turner, Longview
Osra Twomey, West Lafayette, Ind.
David Utzman, Tyler
Susan Vella, White Oak
Colby Venters, Tyler
Kenneth Vermillion, Tyler
Joseph Vidal, Winona
Natalie Wade, Tyler
Cleon Walker, Winona
La'Princess Walker, Tyler
Shawn Walker, Tyler
Jason Wallace, Tyler
Steven Waller, Whitehouse
Jennider Watson, Henderson
Jillian Weaver, Talco
Elaine Webb, Luling
Christopher Weber, Mineola
Kelly Weber, Tyler
Stephanie Welch, Whitehouse
Julia Welch, Tyler
Earnest Welch Jr, Brownsboro
Megan Wellborn, Hallsville
Talon Wiggins, Van
Travis Wiggins, Van
LaDreena Williams, Tyler
Joshua Williams, Van
Amanda Williams, Bullard
Francis Williams, Hawkins
Tonya Wise, Big Sandy
Amanda Wolff, Tyler
Sammy Wong, Tyler
Lisa Woodard, Lindale
Jason Woods, Tyler
Sean Woods, Longview
Chien-Pang Yang, Jacksonville
Troy Yates, Tyler
Dustin Yates, Tyler
Jarrell Young, Arlington

GET UP ON WHAT'S GOING DOWN

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organizations offer... to students

as keeping students' stomachs from growing in class. "Students enjoy coming to an environment where they know they'll be provided for. They come for good food, good fellowship and good fun," said Gayle Robinson, volunteer coordinator for the Wesley Center. "They feel at home here."

All students are invited to the free meals, not just those affiliated with the sponsoring churches. The crowds are smaller at the beginning of the semester, average from 60 to 100, but grow to over 200 by the end of the semester.

WHERE'S THE...
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Baxter St.
Fifth St.
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• Show

For more information, email tjcnews@tjc.edu